

Northside News

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www.northsidenews.org

April/May 2022

Raemisch Farm project rejected, again

By Anita Weier
Northside News

The Madison Common Council has once again rejected plans to develop the 63-acre farm field north of Lakeview School between North Sherman Avenue and Packers Avenue.

The council vote in late February was 14-6 against the plan submitted by Green Street Real Estate Ventures of St. Louis, Mo. The plan included single-family homes, apartments, commercial structures and a park.

Green Street had revised its plan in accord with requests by Northside residents. The company agreed to protect the Lakeview School Forest, reduce lot sizes for homes and not build residences in the eastern part of the site due to concerns about noise from the F-35 military jets that will be headed to Madison.

Development was first proposed by the local Rifken Group in 2020, but Rifken dropped the project and Green Street took over an agreement with Raemisch.

Marsha Cannon, a leader for a community group opposing the development, was pleased that “alders listened to their constituents” who were concerned about the quality of life for people who would live at the site under flights by the noisy jets.

Green Street spokesperson Joel Oliver said the development company was evaluating their options. “We have the property under contract to be able to buy it. We have not terminated our contract at this time,” Oliver said. “We have done more than 99 percent of real estate developers” in trying to meet community requests. “That is why this is so disappointing.”

District 18 Alder Charles Myadze, who represents the development site, had argued that housing is needed, especially single-family homes. Recalling that he lived in a crowded apartment with his children before purchasing a house on the Northside, Myadze said it is vital to have affordable housing in Madison.

“I am the voice of the whole 18th District, not just the people who already have houses,” he stressed.



A veteran views the Marine Corps War Memorial.

Badger Honor Flight resumes with service women flight

By Jeanna Olson
Northside News

It took a lot to get Badger Honor Flight back in the air this year. The local honor flight hub tried to resume their mission of flying veterans to Washington memorials last fall but had to scrap their plans when the COVID Delta variant hit.

Everything had to be revisited, said Public Relations Director Steve Bartlett. “How did we do this? How do we have to change it? Do we still want to do it?”

It’s been a challenge for the Madison hub, but they’ve scheduled three flights starting their return to the skies Thursday, April 21. The first flight leaves on a Thursday instead of a Saturday because of charter plane availability after COVID. A Saturday flight would have shortened the trip by two hours and wouldn’t give veterans maximum time on the ground, which is one of Badger Honor Flight’s most important objectives.

The Alice Ladwig Female Veteran Flight is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, and is the first Badger Honor Flight for service women. The all-day trip includes a stop at the Women’s Military Memorial

near Arlington National Cemetery, another first. Veterans have stopped there before, only to miss the Changing of the Guard at Arlington, which isn’t fair to them, said Bartlett. But this time it’s part of the itinerary.

One of the biggest challenges was making sure everyone felt safe enough to travel. “The toughest thing was getting to the point where we’re at the confidence level that could pull this off,” said Bartlett. “Because we have to bring a lot of people along with us, I don’t mean on the plane, I mean getting to that, where as a group, we know we’ve got the confidence to do this. We’ve reached that point now.”

Current safety protocols require vaccinations and mask at the airport and on the plane. Mask are also needed on the bus in Washington and for the Changing of the Guard ceremony. This is in line with federal regulations which, said Bartlett, could change at any time.

Volunteers, who have been meeting via Zoom and in person, are as ready to go as the vets. The best way to learn about volunteering is to go to a meeting, typically held on the first Wednesday of every month. There you can find out about non-flight-related volunteer options such as fundraising, letter writing, publicity and opportunities in medical areas.

Meeting times, dates and locations are posted on the website at badgerhonorflight.org, along with the 2022 flight schedule. You can also call 608-616-0243 and leave a message.

April 5M adison School Board race features two contests

By Anita Weier
Northside News

Three Madison School Board members will be elected April 5. Shepherd Janeway (listed as Joyner on the ballot) and Laura Simkin are vying for one seat. David Blaska, a write-in candidate, is opposing Board President Ali Muldrow. Nichelle Nichols is unopposed.

Joyner previously said they entered the race to protect transgender children, whom they said were threatened by a previous candidate who later dropped out. Joyner stayed in, saying they will fight to make sure all children feel safe at school.

Joyner teaches in two Madison schools through a UW-Madison arts program known as Whoopensocker. They said arts education is vital in meeting students’ social and emotional learning needs.

Simkin, the mother of an East High student, said she will focus on school safety, pandemic effects and racial disparities if elected. She has a master’s degree in policy and leadership in early childcare and education and is a manager of the Satellite Family Childcare System at Reach Dane. She advocates for teacher

Madison School Board race continues on page 11



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Details on page 2



INSIDE

NORTHSIDE BUS NETWORK REDESIGN	5
HARTMEYER NATURAL AREA INCLUDES INDIGENOUS BURIAL SITE	6
REHAB OF SCHOOL ROAD PUMPING STATION	17
OTHER NEWS	
Northside News	2
Northside Planning Council.....	3
Business.....	4
Community.....	5
Sports.....	13
Library.....	14
Art.....	16
Non-Profit.....	17
School and Youth.....	18
Environment.....	20
Health and Safety.....	22
Elected Officials.....	23
Senior.....	25
WPCRC.....	26
Calendar.....	27

NORTHSIDE NEWS

From
Lauri Lee



NPC Board Chair

Back-to-back Zoom meetings. Virtual conferences. Remote everything. Believe it or not, people were surprisingly and increasingly nostalgic for attending the meetings they dreaded prior to the pandemic. The new game in recent week has been to see whether you can identify the face behind the mask of people you didn't know prior to the mask mandates. Finally, we're free at last to enjoy face-to-face interaction and fully communicate by reading facial expressions. People are eager to get back to live

events and shared experiences. If you hit reset in your life with a vow to engage your passions, try something new, meet new people and get more involved in your community, there are plenty of opportunities on the Northside. Nonprofits would appreciate your volunteer time.

The Northside Planning Council has a few opportunities for your consideration:

- Help plant the herb garden at FEED Kitchens in late May.
- Join the North Star Award planning team for our October event.
- Join the Taste the Future planning team for the Spring 2023 event.
- Become a volunteer writer for the Northside News.

Please email lauri@northsideplanningcouncil.org to express your interest.

Photo by Virginia Scholtz



Sandhill cranes photographed at WPCRC bird feeder March 5.

Crane contest winners announced

By Virginia Scholtz
Northside News

Sandhill cranes were heard on Madison's Northside about the same time as meteorological spring began March 1. They were thought to be hanging around the Cherokee Marsh at the north end of Sherman Avenue but were not seen in Warner Park until March 5.

Thank you to all the readers who submitted entries. Congratulations to the

winners of the Crane Spotting Contest:

- Adrienne Demmer, Michelle Godwin
- Sprocket Hanks, Kylie Holland

Thank you to these merchants, who donated prizes:

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- Kingdom Restaurant
1865 Northport Drive
- Enrique's Markt
1417 Northport Drive

To submit an article to the Northside News, please email editor@northsidenews.org for guidelines.

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The February/March Issue Winners
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Include your full name, mailing address and either your phone number or email address so we can contact you if you win.

Thank you to the FEED Bakery Training Program for their donations to the Nort scavenger hunts.



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Next Issue: June/July 2022
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NORTHSIDE PLANNING COUNCIL



Photo by Lora Friedrichs

Chris Brockel, manager of FEED Kitchens, and Yeng Yang, owner of Yummee Treats, are pictured with the cookie van with FEED Bakery Manager Amber Blumer behind the wheel.

Cookie van purchased following Go Fund Me campaign

By Chris Brockel
FEED Kitchens

FEED Kitchens and the FEED Bakery Training Program are happy to announce a positive conclusion to our Cookie Van Fundraiser. We were able to procure a 2018 Nissan NV 200 delivery van in good condition.

We appreciate the support of individuals who helped us raise the needed resources to purchase the van through our Go Fund Me campaign and direct donations based on our appeals. This support got us very close to the purchase price of the van when a former member of FEED Kitchens helped us close the gap.

We were the fortunate recipient of

the generosity of Yummee Treats and Bakery, from whom we purchased the van. Yeng Yang, owner of Yummee Treats, donated the difference between his asking price and the cash we had on hand, which allowed us to take possession of the much-needed vehicle.

The Yummee Treats business started at FEED Kitchens in 2018, and Yang built it into a successful model. A year ago, he moved Yummee Treats to a brick-and-mortar location on University Avenue where he continues to find success. Yang's donation to FEED as a thank you for helping him get his start is the model of a circular and supportive community that FEED Kitchens is constantly striving toward achieving.

Northside Health Council Wellness Event Series to start in April

By Lacy Rude

The Northside Health Council is making plans to launch a Wellness Event Series. The goal is to launch the first event in April. The variety of events will help Northsiders reconnect following the harsh effects of COVID-19. These events will be popping up at different Northside locations. Some things being discussed as possibilities are: Massage, honeybee

education and demo, kombucha education and tasting, farming and growing food, creating a Northside community cookbook, local outdoor music and food events, yoga and more.

We will keep you updated on the growth of this initiative as it comes together. If you would like to be kept in the loop, please email Lacy at commorg@northsidemadison.org and request to be added to our email list.

Wellness Event Series

For updates on topics/dates, email commorg@northsidemadison.org
Please include the following information.

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BUSINESS

Credit card fees and rewards impact local businesses

By Anita Weier
Northside News

Many local retailers struggle to pay the costs of credit card fees because so many people now use the cards. But what is a convenience for customers is an expense for restaurants and retail stores.

“It used to be that 5–10% of customers used credit cards, but now it is 90–95%. The cost has become even greater for retailers because so many cards pay rewards to their customers. The rewards cost is not paid by credit card companies, but by retailers,” said John Kavanaugh, owner of Kavanaugh’s Esquire Club.

“We are paying rewards as well as other fees for card use. When a credit card company says it is costing me 1.5%, it is closer to 3% or 4%.”

Consequently, some retail stores now have their own credit cards, “so they can control what they are giving away,” Kavanaugh added.

In some areas, he said, retailers are passing on the cost of rewards to customers — for airline miles or toasters or whatever — since the businesses don’t get any benefit. The federal law was changed so retailers can charge consumers up to 3.99% as a fee for using a credit card, Kavanaugh added.

“It amounts to a lot more money than you think,” he said, “and it puts the consumer in the middle. He or she is getting rewards, but most don’t realize that I am the one buying their rewards. The first step is to inform the public that whether it is the Esquire Club or Kohl’s, the retailer is paying the costs.”

Chico, owner of the Villa Tap on

Packers Avenue, has found a relatively simple way of dealing with the problem of credit card fees.

“All of our prices are listed at the cash price, but if you use a credit card, we add a service fee of about 3.9%. I am taking the cost of what credit cards charge me to charge customers for paying with a credit card,” he explained. “I have been doing this for about two and a half years. I was worried about negative impact, and at first some weren’t happy, but now everyone seems fine with it, and it covers some of our expense.”

Chico knows of 15 to 20 businesses that have switched to this procedure, including quite a few bars, but he does not know about others on the Northside.

“We have an ATM when people come into the building. Some regulars know and are already prepared to pay cash,” added Chico, whose actual seldom-used name is Chris Warren.

Another innovation the Villa Tap started using during the COVID-19 pandemic was an advance reservation system for its famed Friday fish fry. “We start taking reservations on Thursday, but now some people call as early as Tuesday,” he said.

In the past, people would come in on Friday evenings and sign up on a blackboard. Then they might wait two hours to be seated. With the new system, customers can come in at their reservation time, be seated and served.

“We have had to reinvent ourselves. Not everything has worked but some things have,” he noted. “We previously didn’t offer carry-out, but now I think we will always do some form of carry-out.”

East Madison Community Center serves Truax neighborhood with continued support from Ascendium Education Group

By Ascendium Education Group

Picture this: It’s Earth Day and the sun is shining down on the East Madison Community Center’s (EMCC’s) children’s grow garden. Before the fresh produce can be harvested in the summer for healthy meals, the dirt must be prepped for the fruits and vegetables to be planted for the upcoming growing season. The hands on the shovels? The EMCC team alongside Ascendium Education Group employees.

The EMCC is a multi-service center providing social, educational, recreational and cultural programming to benefit the lives of those in the Madison community. Their positive impact has gained support from local organizations, including Ascendium, a nonprofit dedicated to elevating opportunity for all.

Local volunteers and grants assist in continuing and improving the EMCC’s existing programs that aim to help Truax neighborhood residents gather, learn and support one another. Some of these programs include anger management classes for youth ages 7–17, social and emotional education for students in grades K–12, and life skills training for teenage mothers attending high school.

In addition to the continuation of EMCC’s influential programs, grant funds allowed for eight of their youth

staff to be certified in trauma response. This certification provides opportunity for youth staff to give back to the community through assisting children that are experiencing stress and trauma in their lives.

The center also realized the negative impact that the COVID-19 health crisis has had on children’s physical activity levels. In response, they provide multiple hours of gym time a day to help children get out of the house and stay active.

Recently celebrating 55 years of service, the EMCC continues to make a significant impact on the community through building brighter futures for Madison families. Their efforts notably impress and inspire local nonprofits.

“The EMCC is an outstanding community asset that never fails to support education in the Madison community,” noted Ascendium’s Vice President of Strategic Communications Brett Lindquist. “We are always grateful for the opportunity to volunteer with the center and support their mission of enhancing opportunities on the eastside.”

In the upcoming year, organizations like Ascendium are excited to continue their support for EMCC’s influential programs. Want to get involved with the EMCC? Please check out their volunteer opportunities at eastmadisoncc.org/volunteer.

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COMMUNITY



Amendment #3B to Bus Rapid Transit proposal to replace current Route 17

Northside bus network redesign eliminates Route 17

Beth Sluys
Northside News

It has been over 20 years since the city of Madison took a hard look at its bus routes, service areas and how best to move people through and around the city. With the routes for the proposed bus rapid transit system already determined through a locally preferred alternative process and the connector routes being determined as a part of the entire Metro system makeover, there are many issues to consider.

On March 10, residents attended a virtual public meeting that focused on Districts 12 and 18 and were presented with the proposed new routes, route cuts and some proposed changes (amendments) based on

previous public input.

One major issue is the proposed cutting of bus service to the Pick ‘n Save grocery store via bus Route 17, the only bus route to a local general grocery store and a Northside employer. Attendees were shown Amendment #3B that would include service to bus stops on Packers and Aberg Avenues and a new sidewalk to the store. Several members of the public were upset with the sidewalk solution and the issues related to grocery carts, mobility issues, long walks to the store and public safety. The current Route 17 drops bus riders close to the storefront through the parking lot. Attendees preferred that Route 17 be kept as is.

While the focus of the Metro network redesign is where people can travel to within 45 minutes, it discounts the local places to which Northsiders need to travel. A woman who lives at Packers Townhouses said in written feedback, “I am a single mother with two small children. I use the bus daily for trips back and forth to daycare, grocery shopping at Pick ‘n Save, and work. Discontinuing #17 and the North transfer point will be a burden on my life. I need these bus routes in order to take care of my children.”

District 18 Alder Charles Myadze requested service on Kennedy Street north of Northport Drive and supported Amendment 1 to keep the bus route on Troy Drive to Knutson in place and keep the route off School Road past Mendota Elementary School. He also requested that staff host a meeting with paratransit, saying to “tackle

this issue a little bit early is imperative.”

In addressing the elimination of Route 17, Myadze stated that he understands “the [route] timing is still the same, but walking with groceries and the concerns related to the carts are important, too.”

District 12 Alder Syed Abbas was also in attendance. In an interview, he stated, “the route changes should improve the lives of area residents and not cause harm by limiting food and employment access or creating difficulties for bus riders.”

This engagement/input process will continue through the spring, with the final draft plan going to the Transportation Policy and Planning Board and then on to the Common Council.

For more information and to complete the feedback survey online, visit Metro Transit Network Redesign (cityofmadison.com/metro/routes-schedules/transit-network-redesign).

Northside blood drive April 13

By Becca Carpenter
The River Food Pantry

In response to the national blood shortage crisis, Door Creek Church will host a community blood drive on Madison’s Northside Wednesday, April 13, from 3–6 pm at 1181 N. Sherman Ave., in the Northgate Shopping Center.

Sponsored by The River Food Pantry and Northside Planning Council, the public blood drive will support ImpactLife, provider of blood and blood components to SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital and Stoughton Health.

“There is a serious blood shortage in Madison hospitals. Working with our Northside partners to organize a community blood drive is the least we can do to help,” said Rhonda Adams, executive director of The River. “If you can, please join us to donate blood on April 13 to help save lives right here in our community.”

“ImpactLife has an immediate need for additional donors to support our region’s blood supply. Red blood cell inventory for most blood types is at three days or less and even lower for type O blood

cells,” said Erica Barker, recruitment development coordinator of ImpactLife. “Ongoing regular donations at our local blood drives and at our new Madison Donor Center are crucial at this time.”

Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission forms available through bloodcenter.org) and weigh more than 110 pounds. A photo ID is required. For questions about eligibility, call ImpactLife at 800-747-5401. Donors who last gave blood on or before Feb. 16 are eligible to give at this drive.

Blood donation is a safe, simple procedure that takes about 45 minutes to an hour. Individuals with diabetes or controlled high blood pressure may be accepted as eligible donors.

To make an appointment to donate blood, call 800-747-5401 or visit bloodcenter.org and use the code 4203 to locate the drive.

ImpactLife is the provider of blood and blood components to more than 125 hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin. The ImpactLife Donor Center in Madison is located at 7475 Mineral Point Road, #49.



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COMMUNITY



Photo by Beth Sluys

A nesting pair of cranes call the wetland on Roth Street home each year.

Hartmeyer natural area includes Indigenous burial site

By Beth Sluys
Northside News

July 22 will be the two-year mark since the Common Council voted to save 16 acres of land located at 2007 Roth Street for green and open space. This decision was part of the Oscar Mayer Special Area planning process.

The future land use map contains a green area that was accepted by the public to be the area for creating a public green space. The conversations included a conservation park area to be zoned CN, which would allow the natural area to serve as a passive recreation park. This park would be a “sister” park to Demetral Park, preferred for active recreation.

If the expectation is developing to add 2,500 people to Sherman Neighborhood (doubling its current population) with affordable housing on the property surrounding the 16 acres, it seems only natural to keep both areas for recreation options for current and future neighbors.

In the intervening time, some of the land outlined within that 16 acres has been sold, is under contract for sale to a private developer, and has been partially rezoned for uses other than green and open space. To area residents that have been involved in this process for years, the decision to rezone less than 16 acres as conservation district during the March 7 Plan Commission meeting is counter to and in no way supports the decision made by the Common Council to conserve 16 acres.

In addition, most of the land that will

be a future park may be an Indigenous burial site area. A possible mound site has been discovered and has been reported to the Wisconsin Historical Society. Dr. James Skibo, state archaeologist, visited the area to assess the potential mound site. A recent email from Amy Rosebrough, the leading expert on mound builders in Wisconsin, stated, “Our office’s view, per Dr. Skibo, is that the city would be best served by hiring an archaeologist qualified to work within the boundaries of burial sites to conduct a formal investigation of that location in order to rule out the presence of potential mounds.”

It is now more important than ever to define the 16 acres of land dedicated to public space to protect both the natural and cultural resources from being destroyed or negatively impacted by intense redevelopment and roads.

The Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area President Paul Noeldner said, “The Common Council has spent considerable time debating this land use issue and voted to keep 16 acres of land for public access. We are glad to have the Plan Commission vote yes on some land being zoned for a conservation district, but we now need to define those acres. With roads and high-density housing being planned for the surrounding land, now more than ever we need to establish the park boundary for the 16-acre park. We respect the work of the Common Council and fully support keeping the full 16 acres for this gem of a park in the heart of Sherman Neighborhood.”

Breakfast with the Bunny returns curbside April 9

By Becca Carpenter
The River Food Pantry

“Everybunny” is invited to Curbside Breakfast with the Bunny Saturday, April 9, from 8–10:30 am, at The River Food Pantry, 2201 Darwin Road.

All are welcome to stop by this drive-thru event to pick up pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit and juice for the whole family. You are encouraged to pay what you can this year.

The Easter Bunny will be hopping around taking photos with cars and handing out free bags of goodies to the first 300 children. Treats will include candy, coloring books, egg dye kits and more. Children must be present to receive a goodie bag.

This annual breakfast fundraiser provides local families a wonderful Easter experience, while supporting The River, Dane County’s busiest food pantry serving over 1,000 households every week.

“We are so ‘egg-cited’ to host this

special Northside event,” said Rhonda Adams, executive director of The River. “It’s a fun and convenient way to get your family in the Easter spirit, all while supporting a great cause.”

For many years, this event was sponsored by the Northside Business Association at Northside restaurants, such as Benvenuto’s and Kavanaugh’s Esquire Club. It was canceled in 2020 due to COVID-19.

In 2021, The River adapted the event to curbside distribution at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Despite the rain that day, nearly 200 children, parents and grandparents were served and \$900 was raised for The River. This year The River is preparing to serve over 1,000 breakfasts.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and distribute meals and goodie bags. To sign up, contact Helen at helen@riverfoodpantry.org.

You can learn more at riverfoodpantry.org/bunny.

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COMMUNITY

MPD explores Northside pilot program for body-worn cameras

By Virginia Scholtz
Northside News

The Madison Police Department (MPD) is exploring policies and procedures for the use of body-worn cameras by police officers on the city's Northside. Money for the project was approved in 2021.

In February about 30 people attended a Share the Table presentation by MPD and Axon Enterprise Inc., a provider of these types of cameras. Attendees included police officers, city alderpersons, students and residents. Axon Enterprise presented a program about the workings and applications for their system of police-worn body cameras.

Bertha Purnell is a Chicago resident and founder and CEO of Mothers on a Mission 28, a support group for mothers whose children have been murdered. She said she and her neighbors see benefits in body-worn cameras. They bring some objectivity to discussion of events and sometimes de-escalate tensions.

MPD Chief Shon Barnes spoke about his work to determine best practices for use of these devices. The department will develop or update policies that maintain the integrity of camera footage, including definition of the circumstances and times when cameras must be turned on. He described ways data would be secured and maintained, and how tampering would be prevented.

Assistant Chief of Police Brian Austin stated that Madison's SWAT team has used body-worn cameras for the past eight years. They record when officers

approach a situation and stay on until the operation is completed. They are useful in following up the actions taken in an incident and in training — what worked and what needs improvement. The recordings also provide evidence of the occurrence and conditions at the time.

Austin noted that a camera record enables veracity, integrity and a chain of custody. Officers are "grateful" for the camera record, he stated, and "society expects video evidence."

There are limits to the utility of this method of evidence collection. A camera records only one aspect of a situation. The pixel strength may or may not be enough to provide a clear image of all the details. Lighting or lack of it may reduce the visibility of the scene.

Although "cloud" storage may be available, MPD keeps information from a camera-recorded incident in its own data center. Manipulation of records is prohibited, except that images of bystanders and children may be blurred if they have no bearing on the incident.

Both Barnes and Austin stressed that body-worn cameras are not expected to alter police behavior. Police are sworn to protect and serve the public. Part of that is preserving evidence intact. Any attempt to alter evidence is met by disciplinary action.

Alder Sheri Carter stated she is generally supportive of body cameras but is especially concerned that images of minors and bystanders be redacted.

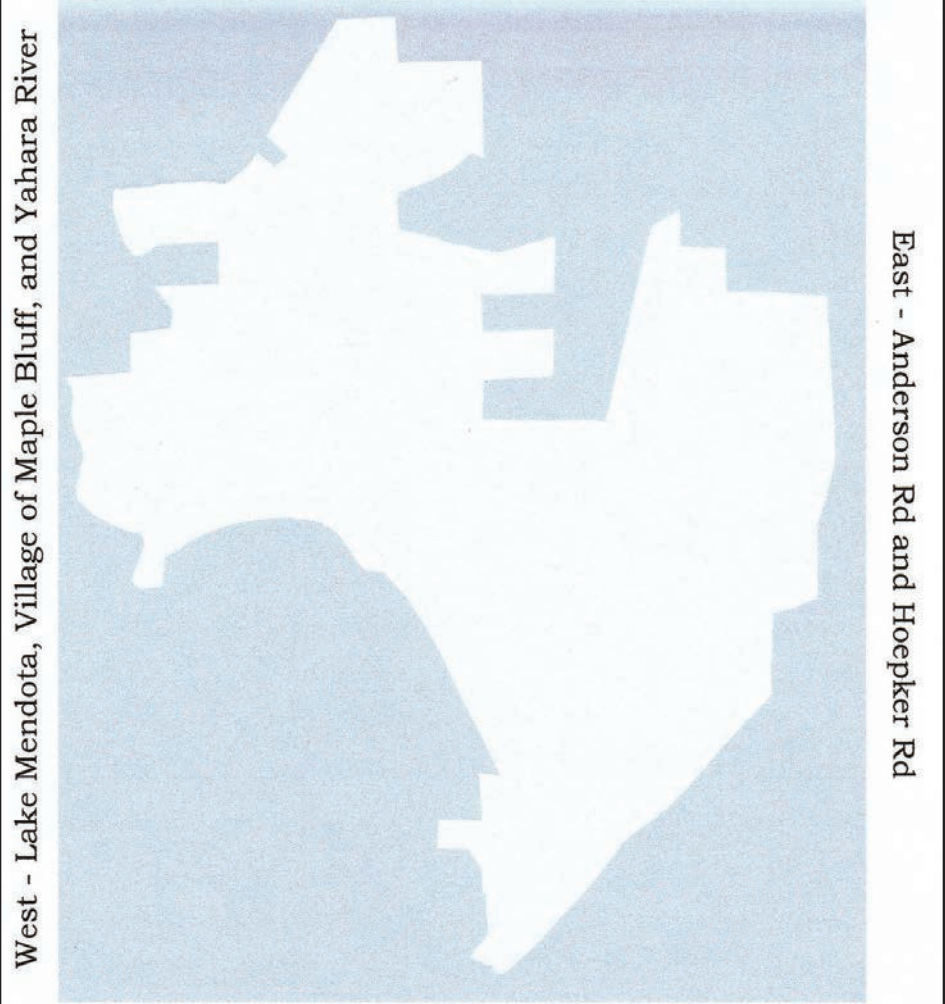
Barnes noted there are many details to be worked out and some unknowns about the use of police-worn body cameras. For example, which officers should wear them, detectives and/or patrol officers? Will the future budget be enough to support the use and upgrade of camera systems and their associated record keeping? Will future elected leadership support their ongoing use?

Barnes said, "Officers overwhelmingly agree that they want body-worn cameras" in the belief that "they make everyone accountable."

In correspondence from the Madison Professional Police Officers Association, board member Dan Frei shared this comment. "We have and continue to support a body-worn camera (BWC) program for MPD. We believe that BWC can be a great tool to help answer and resolve questions as to what happened and give insight into why things happened. No tool is perfect, and we are aware that BWC do not solve trust issues, but they can help to prevent erosion of trust that can happen when there are unanswered questions.

North District Boundaries - Police Department - City of Madison

North - River Rd and Cherokee Wildlife Area



South - E. Washington Ave (Hwy 151)

"We also stress the importance of proper funding of any technology program. By that we mean that only providing funding for initial acquisition but failing to fund ongoing costs to maintain, repair, replace and upgrade can create false expectations on the part of the public (the public being told that a certain technology exists and is being used when it was not funded properly and as it begins to fail the funds aren't there to repair/replace and now the technology isn't always there)."

Alder Charles Myadze campaigned for office emphasizing his intention to address public safety. He is part of the council president's Work Group on Racial Justice, Antiracism and Equity. He said, "Public safety is personal to me." He believes police-worn body cameras would

enhance public safety in three ways: "transparency, trust and training." He added that "our officers are pledged to protect and serve the citizens of our city."

Myadze believes the objective information provided by body cameras can help avoid misunderstanding. It can show officers how an encounter was handled and what could be done again or done better in the next similar situation. There is a cost associated with body cameras, but it is likely the money spent on their use would be offset by money saved in costly legal arguments and settlement pay outs. He estimates over \$10 million has been paid out in the past 10 years.

Myadze said he takes the work of city government seriously and that "it is an honor to be part of the committee working on use of police-worn body cameras."

Recently a group of people sat down to lunch at Warner Park Community Recreation Center. Overall, they spoke in favor of body cameras. Some expressed reservations that the "evidence" would be from only one angle and not show the whole picture. Some worried that the footage could be rigged to make one party or the other look guilty or innocent.

Life-long Madison resident Corene Moody said she is in "favor of the body camera to show what took place." In general, the group seemed to think that, although a single camera can't tell the whole story, camera use could be good for both sides.

An official public meeting to share the proposal for the body-worn camera pilot program was scheduled to take place March 10, after the deadline of this issue. A record of this meeting can be accessed through the City of Madison website.

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COMMUNITY

Madison East High School plans centennial celebration

By Cynthia Chin
East High School

Madison East High School will celebrate 100 years of existence in 2022–2023. School-based and community events commemorating this milestone are being planned. A committee of faculty is in communication with representatives of the Northside Planning Council, Northside Business Association, several neighborhood associations and East High alumni groups. A centennial scholarship fund is also being created.

Watch for announcements of events in future editions of the Northside News and on East’s social media forums.

At this time, the committee would like to announce an East High Alumni Night scheduled by the Madison Mallards for July 22.

Community members and representatives of organizations interested in collaboration on future events or with the creation of a historical archive (documents, oral histories and artifacts) may communicate with the faculty group using this email: eastsidehigh100@gmail.com.

Behind on your energy bill? Madison Gas & Electric can help

By MGE

We know this is a challenging time for many in our community. It’s important all our customers know Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE) is here to help.

Customers who are behind on their MGE bill can work with our customer service representatives to set up a personalized payment agreement and discuss financial assistance that may be available from our community partners. A payment, even if minimal, can help customers who are behind on their bills avoid potential collection

activity, late fees or disconnection in the future.

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Need financial assistance?

Financial assistance may be available for your household. Energy Services, Inc. (ESI) is currently taking applications through an online portal at energybenefit.wi.gov or by phone at 800-506-5596.

Visit mge.com/resources to find other community resources.

What’s new at Willy North?

By Brendon Smith
Willy Street Co-op

Want to work at the Co-op?

In 1974, a group of people who wanted to provide quality food for their families began Willy Street Co-op. Now we have more than 300 employees working at three stores, a production kitchen, and a business office to serve almost 33,000 Co-op Owners.

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Weekly hot bar menu

If you haven’t visited the hot bar lately, you may not know that we now have a different theme for each day of the week

- Monday: Comfort Food Day (including foods like Mac and Cheese, Spicy Collard Greens, and Chicken Tenders)
- Tuesday: Tex Mex Day (including foods like Sierra Madre Chicken, Enchilada Pie, and tacos)
- Wednesday: Italian Day (including foods like Roasted Vegetable Lasagna, Pasta and Sauce, and Polenta fries)
- Thursday: East/Southeast Asian Day (including foods like Sweet and Hot Chicken, Edamame Fried Rice and Peanut Chicken)
- Friday: Indian Buffet Day (including

foods like Masala Meatballs, Deepaks Korma, Bengali Biryani)

- Saturday: BBQ Day (including foods like BBQ chicken, pork and beans, and Willy Street Hotdish)
- Sunday: Meat and Potatoes Day (including foods like turkey, mashed potatoes, and ham)

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Stop at Customer Service in the store for more information or visit willystreet.coop.

DAIS seeks volunteers

By Lee Wilson-Hayes

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) volunteers provide crucial, life-saving services to domestic violence survivors and their families. Your time and compassion will go a long way in providing support to those impacted by domestic violence in Dane County.

You can read about our volunteer opportunities and fill out an interest form on our website: abuseintervention.org/volunteer. Please complete the Volunteer Contact Form electronically or call 608-709-5424.

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COMMUNITY

How FEED Kitchens entrepreneurs fared during pandemic

By Chris Brockel
FEED Kitchens

The results of an annual survey taken in January show that businesses operating out of FEED Kitchens made gains in 2021 versus 2020, although the pandemic continued to negatively affect these small food entrepreneurs.

The annual survey allows FEED Kitchens to measure the success of businesses operating out of the facility, as well as that of FEED Kitchens as a central processing hub for local foods. Businesses operating out of FEED include food carts, caterers, bakers, tortillas, kombucha, shrubs, juices, drink mixes, flavored popcorn, sauces and salsas, frozen pizzas, popsicles, and dairy-based and vegan ice cream.

Thirteen businesses got their start during the pandemic. These new entrepreneurs were a part of the “great resignation” spurred by COVID, where folks resigned their jobs and thought of ways to take control of their own destinies and follow their passions.

The average gross revenue for businesses operating out of FEED Kitchens in 2021 bounced back to near pre-pandemic levels. In 2020 the average revenue for producers at FEED had dropped to a dangerous low, so it is nice to see this number bounce back up.

There are big dreams inside the walls of FEED. Interestingly, for 41% of FEED members, their food business is their primary or only source of income, with 85% of the remaining (part time?) entrepreneurs expressing desire that their food business becomes their primary income source. It showed that those who operate their business as a side hustle have hopes of hitting the big time.

Part of FEED’s mission is to be an economic driver and development engine for our local economy with dollars generated through FEED businesses circulating right back into our local businesses instead of leaving our region for some far-off place. In 2021 FEED businesses generated over \$1.2 million in revenue, which is a big bounce back from the \$550,000 generated in 2020. Pre-pandemic revenue numbers were around \$1.5 million.

The effect of COVID-19 on FEED businesses was obvious to those of us working here on a day-to-day basis. But to quantify it, 82% of businesses report being negatively affected by the pandemic, with 21% of them stating

the pandemic had an extremely negative affect on their operations.

Negative factors cited include: lack of events or vending opportunities (71%), high price of ingredients (62%), inability to source ingredients and supplies (32%), focus on other responsibilities (29%), inability to receive deliveries in a timely manner (21%), and lack of available labor (21%).

While it has been difficult for those who need help to find available labor, the number of jobs created by businesses at FEED dropped dramatically during the pandemic. In 2019, 120 jobs were created by businesses at FEED. In 2021, this number dropped to 73, with an average wage of \$15.76 per hour. Some of the reasons for this are obvious, but it should be noted that during the pandemic FEED Kitchens

limited the number of people a business could bring into the facility at a single time.

Finally, in a measure of FEED’s ability to reach out and support entrepreneurs who don’t traditionally have access to facilities and services like ours, 64% of the businesses operating out of FEED in 2021 were owned or co-owned by people of color and 55% were owned or co-owned by women.



Photo by Bethany Michiels

Special thanks to the Bruns family for allowing The River to use their building to store and distribute gifts to local families over the holidays.

The River loves the supportive Northside

By Becca Carpenter
The River Food Pantry

Located in a Northside warehouse off Northport Drive and Packers Avenue, The River Food Pantry is surrounded by low-income neighborhoods and subsidized senior housing — exactly where we’re needed most.

While we serve over 1,000 households each week throughout Dane County, The River has always had a special focus on supporting our Northside neighbors. The highest concentration of our clients lives in the 53704 zip code.

Households have access to free weekly groceries via curbside pickup or delivery, online grocery orders once

a month, and freshly prepared to-go meals up to four days a week.

In a recent survey where clients were asked what they liked most about The River, responses included, “Everyone is always so kind and respectful. I don’t know what I’d do without you all.”

In addition, 9 of the 10 low-income neighborhoods served by our mobile lunch program, Munch, are on the Northside. When school is not in session, Munch delivers free healthy lunches to any child or adult who could use an extra meal.

“The Northside is where The River has made its home for 16 years and where so many of our clients, volunteers, staff, partners and donors reside,” said Rhonda Adams, executive

director of The River and secretary of the Northside Business Association.

Many Northside individuals and organizations have provided generous support to The River over the years to help shape it into south central Wisconsin’s busiest food pantry.

Food is what The River does best. However, we will always do what we can to nourish people in body, mind and spirit in order to achieve our vision of a fully nourished community.

“Many people have described The River as ‘more than a food pantry’ and we are able to live up to that because this generous Northside community we get to call home,” Adams said.

Learn more about The River Food Pantry at riverfoodpantry.org.

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COMMUNITY



Photo by Virginia Scholtz

Edgar Hernandez

Edgar Hernandez, active in business and community life

By Virginia Scholtz
Northside News

Born in Puebla, Mexico, Edgar Hernandez came to the U.S. as a child. He graduated from East High and has lived and worked on Madison's Northside for most of his life. Hernandez says not many people know about the history of his country of origin. For instance, Cinco de Mayo is not Mexican Independence Day. It is a celebration of the defeat of the French at the battle of Puebla in 1862.

He likes this area for the friendly neighbors he meets here. Even though winter in Wisconsin can be a bit chilly, Hernandez prefers to live in our state because it is more welcoming than some of the states where he has lived and worked. His family lives here, too. His children attend or have attended Madison schools. His family operates restaurants, small groceries and hair salons throughout the city.

When he is not working at Enrique's Market on Northport Drive, Hernandez works at Enrique's Grill in Fitchburg. He finds that being bilingual is helpful in his work life and in the community.

That was not always the case. When he was a child, his native Spanish tongue presented a fair share of challenges. As a young man working in factory jobs, his ability to translate between the two languages gave him the opportunity for promotion to supervisory status. Now in

his everyday life, he moves between the languages to assist and advise his customers and some of his neighbors.

While someone may occasionally try to take advantage of his good will, Hernandez wants people to know the Northside is not a "bad neighborhood." In his lifetime, Hernandez has encountered people from many cultures. He doesn't believe in stereotypes. He prefers to take people one at a time, as individuals.

When he's not at work, Hernandez likes to be active. He plays on an adult soccer team. He and his wife love to dance, especially Salsa and Cumbia style. His favorite food is — you guessed it — spaghetti. His favorite vacation spot is in the warm climes of Tulum, Mexico, an ancient port city on the Caribbean coast of the Yucatan peninsula.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Hernandez made the mask mandate a requirement for his customers, and they have come to respect that. Citing his wish to help his community, he acknowledged that he is a role model and a leader in the neighborhood.

As he looks to the future, his message to young people is "take advantage of school." A good education can let them choose a good career rather than merely take a job. He sees the Northside of Madison as an area for more growth, perhaps an even larger family grocery store in the coming years.

History of Cinco de Mayo and Mexico's Independence Day

By Virginia Scholtz
Northside News

Mexico celebrates its independence on Sept. 16, which marks the first Mexican Empire's Declaration of Independence in 1821. That government only lasted two or three years before again being ruled by European colonial forces.

In the early 1860s Napoleon III sent forces to Mexico with the aim of expanding the French Colonial Empire. As was true of people in colonial North America, there was division between those who wanted to maintain ties to Europe and those who wanted self-governance.

The website MexicanHistory.org tells us that having come to the Caribbean port city of Veracruz, "the French marched on from the coast to Mexico City under the command of Charles Latrille. The French expected to be welcomed by the conservatives and the clergy. The Mexicans dug in at Puebla and heavily fortified it under General



Ignacio Zaragoza, where around 4,500 Mexican troops faced off against around 6,000 French. The French expected the Mexicans to retreat in the face of an aggressive assault and attacked recklessly. The French ran low on ammunition and many of their troops were weakened by sickness. On May 5, 1862, the Mexican forces managed to drive back the French to Veracruz. The Mexicans lost 83 men while the French lost 462."

Recalling the galvanizing Battle of Puebla, President Benito Juarez declared that the 5th of May, Cinco de Mayo, would be a national holiday,

Source: MexicanHistory.org

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COMMUNITY

Pandemic and inflation pressure home buyers

By Virginia Scholtz
Northside News

According to Federal Reserve Economic Data published by the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis, Missouri, housing prices shot up by nearly 20% in the 12 months preceding August 2021. Nearly 75% of property sales in April 2021 involved a bidding war. The frenzy eased slightly in the fall, when only 60% of buyers tried to out-bid one another for the purchase of a home.

The market in Madison has been mirroring the national picture.

In early March, the website for one local realtor, Josh Lavik & Associates, showed the median list price of a home on Madison's Northside was \$287,000; the average home cost was \$187 per square foot of living space; and the time on the market (from listing to a signed contract) was 82 days.

A sample of the homes listed on various internet sites in that time period shows the time from listing a home to receiving an offer to purchase is much shorter than 82 days. This is especially true for lower priced properties.

Karol Niemann is an empty nester. She has a steady job with moderately good wages. Planning to move to Madison, she sold her single family, two-bedroom, ranch-style home in Columbia County earlier this year. The buyer paid her list price, and the house was on the market for only three weeks.

She is still searching for the right property in Madison. There are modestly priced homes on the Northside. Niemann sees about three properties a week. In February, she bid and overbid on six properties. Despite offering up to \$25,000 over the asking price, other buyers got the houses.

Niemann noted that sellers are looking for quick sales. The most attractive buyer is someone with ready cash. Offers with higher earnest money are also going to the top of the heap. The

Property	List Price	List Date	Sold Date	Price per Square Foot
1938 Vahlen St. 2 beds, 1.5 baths	\$210,000	2/27/2022	March 4 pending	\$150/sq. ft. (\$101/sq. ft. in 2004)
1710 Sachtjen St. 3 beds, 2 baths	\$325,000	2/24/2022	March 4 pending	\$152/sq. ft. (\$78/sq. ft. 2014)
206 Knutson Dr. 3 beds, 3.5 baths	\$449,900	01/15/2022	Under construction	\$185/sq. ft.
101 Meadow Ridge Lane 4 beds, 3.5 baths	\$420,000	1/18/2022	March 4 contingent	\$142/sq. ft. (\$108/sq. ft. in 2008)

need to write a check with each bid can tie up a lot of cash for the person shopping for new digs.

She said, "I have an ambitious buyer's agent. He works really hard in the scramble that is today's housing market."

Apollo Marquez, with Dan Chin Homes, is Niemann's agent. He stated that the market slowed in the early part of the pandemic. Lately, he believes, the ability to work remotely has brought buyers from outside this area. Often, especially with buyers from the east and west coasts, the homes that are sold bring prices above the costs in Dane County. That has the effect of quicker sales because the more cash that can be paid, the more attractive the offer is to sellers.

Justin Peters, mortgage loan officer at Summit Credit Union, offered some advice to home buyers. "The demand for housing in this area is rising and there is not enough supply. It is best to have a pre-approval completed prior to putting in an offer. Buyers will also need some flexibility in the details of the sale as sellers can be very specific about details such as closing dates, etc."

Spring is traditionally the busiest

home buying season. According to the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, a/k/a Freddie Mac, last spring the average interest on a 30-year mortgage was 3.4%. This spring's rate is 3.74%. Rates are expected to

rise over the coming months. Buyers face the challenges of inflation and rebounding from the economic effects of the pandemic.

It looks like an active season for Madison's Northside real estate market.

School Board *continued from page 1*

involvement in decision making.

Muldrow, the current board president, has two daughters in the Madison School District. She is co-executive director of a nonprofit that advocates for LGBTQ+ youth in Wisconsin. Blaska is a former Dane County Board supervisor and well-known conservative.

During an online candidate forum, major issues addressed included staff retention, student behavior, school safety and helping students adjust to re-entry to in-person school after online instruction during the pandemic.

Blaska said students will not be able to succeed academically until they feel safe. "You cannot learn until you feel safe, and too many do not feel safe," he said.

Muldrow stressed closing the achievement gap and ending racism. Recruiting teachers of color and designing an inclusive curriculum are steps to those ends, she said.

Simkin said students need more attention after going through the pandemic and learning online. However, she added, "every student needs a safe place to learn, and we should consider returning school resource officers to the schools," citing a large number of police calls to East High and surrounding areas since the school resource officer — a police officer — left.

Joyner noted that COVID has been "an ongoing trauma" that can be addressed by focusing on students' mental health needs and restorative justice. "We are responsible for students developing into whole, healthy human beings," they said. They added that social and emotional needs of staff must also be considered.

Simkin stressed implementation of the district's behavior education plan. "It is well thought out, but implementation has not been effective in achieving the desired results," Simkin said. Chronic behavior

issues can prevent teachers from being able to teach, she added.

Blaska said, "The behavior education plan is the problem, not the solution. We must put teachers back in control of the classroom and principals in charge of the schools. Teachers don't want to risk their careers by disciplining."

The complex plan differs by high school, middle school and elementary school. Guiding principles include stressing teaching and intervention over consequences and punishment, avoiding exclusionary practices, and progressive discipline instead of zero tolerance.

Muldrow said young people deserve real solutions and opportunities, and gaps in online learning must be resolved. The board must address the reality of the global pandemic and invest resources in what teachers advocate for, she said.

Blask countered that COVID cannot be blamed for many students being below basic levels of learning, as shown by Department of Public Instruction analyses. "We need high expectations for all. Students should quit making excuses," he said, contending that students are coming out of school "illiterate."

Simkin said "we must defer to our teachers." Joyner said the most marginalized students must be protected.

Regarding staff retention in the face of burnout and lack of respect and support, Simkin said top-down requirements don't allow teachers to use their unique skills. "Give staff more autonomy and control in their classrooms," she advised.

Joyner agreed that school staff must be trusted and empowered. "We must provide as many resources as we can, invest in recruitment and mentorship, and above all, listen."

Muldrow said collective bargaining, which was cut by state government during Scott Walker's term as governor, should be restored so teachers can talk about issues.

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COMMUNITY



EMCC's February Family Night included playing bingo.

Community energy at the East Madison Community Center

By Regina McConnell
East Madison Community Center

Each month, East Madison Community Center (EMCC) hosts a community event such as games, movies or an outing. The first EMCC Family Night of 2022 was filled with laughter and shouts of "Bingo!" The February theme was Black History and Valentine's Day. Prizes included helium balloons, so the room quickly became colorful and festive.

EMCC, located at 8 Straubel Ct., hosts a monthly open arts studio, computer lab, fitness center, table tennis, breakdance, family resource center, community garden, afterschool and weekend youth programs, food pantry and more. There is something for everyone. Check out EMCC's Facebook page and website (eastmadisoncc.org) for program details.

One or two volunteers are needed in the food pantry on Tuesdays from 10 am–12 pm to unload pallets of food. Please reach out to EMCC if you are interested. Call 608-249-0861 or go to EMCC's website.

The EMCC community welcomes

Second-Hand Chic Boutique at Sherman Church

By Caitlin McGahan
Sherman Church

Sherman Church is hosting an event to honor Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The event is called the Second-Hand Chic Boutique and will be held April 24, 3–5 pm, at Sherman Church, 3705 N. Sherman Ave. We will offer free, gently used and new women's (and some men's) clothing in sizes M–4XL.

Clothing includes a range of items from dresses and office wear to athletic wear. We also have shoes and jewelry.

For more information, email Caitlin McGahan at caitlin_mcgahan@yahoo.com or call 608-444-8198.



Photo by Regina McConnell

Participants enjoyed EMCC's February Family Night.

Veronica Castillo, the new assistant director. Veronica brings community and teaching experience to EMCC and is off to a great start. All are welcome to stop by and meet Veronica and make suggestions for future programming. Regina McConnell, the previous assistant director, has moved to a program advisor role at EMCC and will work jointly with Veronica in her new position.

EMCC says goodbye to a shining light

By Typhanny Greene
East Madison Community Center

On Feb. 14, a wise sage departed this life and continued her journey on to the next.

Sashe Mishur was a teacher, a leader, a fighter, and a bright light when she walked in the room. She shared her wealth of knowledge and love with all she encountered.

Sashe first came to East Madison Community Center (EMCC) when she started holding her drum circle here. In 2008 we were lucky to snag her to come to work here. She and her partner, Kate Moran, started a break dance group after seeing a performance and falling in love with the dance style. Sashe was 70 years old at the time.

Twice a week a variety of people came to EMCC to learn from each other and grow in not only their breaking dancing skills but life skills as well. We were really doing "each one, teach one." Everybody's got a move. If you knew something, you taught it to someone else. That's how it grew. The group participated in a number of break dance battles, which are good-natured competitions between individuals and small groups held at EMCC.

In 2017 Sashe was honored by the



Photo by Karen Moran

Sashe Mishur

Madison Area Music Association for her work with aspiring emcees and hip-hop dancers.

Sashe will be missed, but always remembered at EMCC. A celebration of her life was held at EMCC March 20.

Sheep's Clothing Pantry has free clothing for those in need

By Lauri Lee
Northside News

Everyone loves a clothing sale, but you can't beat free. St. Paul Lutheran Church is reminding the Northside that Sheep's Clothing Pantry is open for free clothing distribution for individuals and families in need. There's no limit, they just ask that people only take what is needed so more can be helped.

The generosity of the community has fully stocked the shelves with clothes for infants, children, women, men and plus sizes. The winter selection is abundant and well organized by type (coats,

sweaters, etc.), size and gender.

Due to the change of season, the church is now accepting donations of spring and summer clothing. Items can be new or gently-used clean clothes, spring jackets, jeans, shorts, etc. Donations are greatly appreciated to help our neighbors with this need.

The clothing pantry is open Thursday and Friday, 10 am–2 pm, and Saturday, 10 am–noon, in the basement of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2126 N. Sherman Ave., for those who need clothing or want to make clothing donations.

For more information, visit stpaulmadison.org or call the church at 608-244-8077.

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SPORTS

Two Madison moms to compete in American Ninja Warrior

By Sarah Welther
Orthdx Natural Fitness

Madison moms Yarizett Breunig and Shelby Copeland are set to compete on the TV show American Ninja Warrior with a powerful message to all: ‘You can overcome obstacles.’

Copeland will make her rookie debut while Breunig returns to her second season of competition on the popular NBC obstacle course TV show.

Mother to two young children, Copeland said that ninja training was an important outlet. “When you become a parent, so much of your life and your time and your identity is poured into others. Ninja (training) was an outlet that was truly mine.”

Breunig began her ninja warrior training eight weeks after giving birth to her daughter, Gizelle, who is now two years old. “I was going through postpartum depression and was looking for something to inspire change. I fell in love with the sport. Ninja has helped me



Photo provided by Orthdx Natural Fitness

make the reconnection between having fun and doing fitness.”

Often training together and coaching other aspiring ninjas, these two ninja warrior moms hope that their stories of how they are overcoming obstacles in their training and in their life will inspire others. “My passion is to inspire others to become the best version of themselves through movement. I want to show others that they, too, can rewrite their own stories, break their old subconscious beliefs, and become whomever they wish to be,” shared Breunig.

Having dealt with a painful flare up of her chronic illness last year, Copeland said that ninja training is a source to learn how to overcome and adapt, especially on days when she can’t do much. “I learned that by accepting where I was at, it allowed me to get curious and problem solve and adapt (to the) things I could do. Lacking the ability to do something helped me get more flexible and creative in overcoming challenges.”

Breunig said her ninja training has given her confidence in all aspects of

life. “Through this sport I have learned to love myself for who I am and helped me gain confidence in all aspects of my life. By overcoming obstacles everyday I become more fearless and courageous all the while becoming the athlete I never thought I could be.”

Asked why she trains, Copeland shared, “I want to say I’m doing it for the moms, for the chronically ill, for little girls to see what is possible, for my own kids. Sure, that is all true. But at the end of the day the truth is that I’m doing this for me. Ultimately I do all of this simply because I love it.”

Both Breunig and Copeland train and teach classes at ORTHDX Natural Fitness gym which is Madison’s premier training gym for ninja warrior training, combat arts, wellness and fitness.

The two women will head to San Antonio, Texas, with other Wisconsin ninja warriors later this month.

The American Ninja Warrior Season 14 will air in May 2022.

Madison Starlings is not only a club; it creates families”

By Lauri Schwartz, Alyssa Frelka and Kashia Her
Madison Starlings

Madison Starlings Volleyball Club is a local group working to improve access to club volleyball regardless of income. We are a local program under Starlings Volleyball USA. Club volleyball is an opportunity for youth to play outside the school season.

Madison Starlings welcomes all boys and girls in grades 6–12. Tryouts for middle school players (grades 6–8) begin in early October. Tryouts for high school players (grades 9–12) begin in November. Visit starlings.org/Madison for more information and details on how to join.

The following was written by Kashia Her, a member of Madison Starlings 16s Blue Team:

“Madison Starlings is not only a club; it is an environment that creates families. Coaches work together to bring their teams together so everyone can enjoy their time playing and creating memories. Practicing with your club every week and going to tournaments bonds us like nothing else and truly allows us to make the best memories with the people we can call family.

“In Madison Starlings we have teams

that are safe for anyone to express themselves. Some people use practice to destress or to simply have fun while playing their sport. I know I’ve really learned and grown from connecting to my coaches; they were always there to support me whilst I was constantly improving and learning to better myself

as a player.

“Although we have ups and downs as a team, our laughter always tends to drown the difficulties. The times when I’m in my head after a mistake allows for five of my teammates to gather around and hype me up until I’m smiling, laughing and joking around like

nothing happened.

“After years of working with the team and growing each level, playing volleyball isn’t just a sport — it’s something my teammates and I look forward to each and every day. A good practice or game can become the highlight of my week!”

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LIBRARY



be at Lakeview Library on Tuesdays to help individuals and families who owe back rent apply for Dane CORE assistance. Call the African Center for Community Development at 608-957-5623 or 608-514-9321 to schedule an appointment.

DANenet Free Tech Repair
Thursdays, April 7–28, 2–4 pm

Having trouble with your digital device? DANenet technicians are available at Lakeview Library to assist you with your technology repair needs for free. Technicians can look at laptops, desktop computers, phones and tablets, and can help with viruses, data recovery, slow computers, app issues, password resets and more. No appointment is needed. Walk-ins only, first come, first served. Digital Equity Project events are made possible through the partnership of Madison Public Library and DANenet, thanks to funding by the MGE Foundation and the AT&T Foundation.

One-on-One Computer Assistance
Fridays, April 1–29, 5–7 pm

Do you need help with basic computer or internet skills? Are you looking for assistance downloading library eBooks and audiobooks? We offer free one-on-one sessions on Fridays. Reservations are required. Register online, in person or call Lakeview Library.

Madison Writing Assistance
Mondays, April 4–May 2, 4–7 pm

The Madison Writing Assistance program offers free, one-to-one writing support for community members. Writing coaches help with writing projects, including resumes, cover letters, application essays, grant proposals, fiction writing, memoirs and more. Schedule an appointment at madpl.org/calendar, in person or by phone.

All Ages Read and Play
Mondays, April 4–May 16, 10:30–11:30 am

Join us for this special story time — books, songs and play for children

Expanded hours

Lakeview’s hours are Monday–Friday, 10 am–8 pm, Saturday, 9 am–5 pm, and Sunday, 1–5 pm. See all library hours at madpl.org/locations. All Madison libraries will be closed April 17 for Easter (except Central Library, open 1–5 pm) and May 29 and 30 for Memorial Day.

Lakeview news

The Friends of Lakeview Library are holding their annual meeting Saturday, April 2, with a business meeting from 10–10:30 am, followed by a family event featuring author Dean Robbins. Register online at madpl.org/calendar or call the library to register. See the related story on page 15.

Book sales, hosted by the Friends of Lakeview Library, have returned. See the related story on this page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are at Lakeview Library unless otherwise indicated. Check madisonpubliclibrary.org for the most up-to-date information on programs and services.

Alder Charles Myadze Office Hours
Thursdays, April 14 and 28, 4:30–5:30 pm

This is an opportunity to introduce yourself to District 18 Alder Charles Myadze and discuss questions, ideas and concerns.

Dane CORE 2.0 Rental Assistance
Tuesdays, April 5–May 31, 2–5 pm

Are you behind on your rent because of the pandemic, either directly or indirectly? You are not alone. Many people are experiencing financial hardship right now. The African Center for Community Development will

New teen services librarian at Lakeview Library

By Anita Weier
Northside News

Rachel Lavender has brought diverse experiences to her new job as teen services librarian at Lakeview Library on the Northside.

Before graduating with a master’s degree in library and information studies from UW-Madison in May 2021, she earned her bachelor’s degree in public history, with a minor in music, from UW-Eau Claire.

Lavender, who grew up in Buchanan, Mich., worked for the Children’s Museum of Eau Claire while attending college, as well as working in the UW-Eau Claire archives. She also previously worked for George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., as a metadata specialist.

She has already launched a variety of programming for Northside teens, including web design, coding, origami, and arts and crafts. She conducted a scavenger hunt to help young people learn more about the library.

She also helped organize an April



Photo provided by Rachel Lavender

Rachel Lavender

21 virtual author presentation for the book “We Will Always be Here” by Kristen Whitson and Jenny Kalwaitis. Both authors will speak at the 4:30 pm event, which will be presented on the Crowdcast platform of the Wisconsin Book Festival.

Lavender, 26, lives at Schenk’s Corners on the Eastside with her husband Sam Ederer, who is a financial specialist at UW-Madison, and a cat and a dog.

ages 5 and under. Spending time together and reading aloud with young children promotes healthy brain development, improves language and listening skills, and helps build a lifelong love of reading. Siblings and childcare groups are welcome.

We Read and Create!

Thursdays, April 7–May 26, 3:30–5:30 pm

Drop-in at Lakeview Library for all sorts of creative projects and activities for families, groups and all ages.

Library, continued on page 15

LIBRARY

Lakeview Library, *continued from page 14*

Serendipity Saturday

Saturdays, April 9 and May 14, 10–11 am

Will you make a cardboard instrument? Explore pastels or watercolors? Build something out of wood? That's the joy of serendipity — you never know until you get there. Drop in to enjoy fun hands-on art and maker activities for children of all ages.

Cooking with Chef Lily

Saturdays, April 9 and 30, 1:30–2:30 pm
Tuesdays, April 12 and 26, 4:30–5:30 pm

Join The Kids Chef, Lily Kilfoy, for a series of cooking demonstrations for children and families. Participants will learn about different foods, where they come from, how to follow recipes, and how to use a variety of kitchen tools. Due to COVID precautions, this will be a hands-off program, but participants will get to take home a meal to enjoy. Food is generously provided by Willy St. Co-op North.

Poetry and Nature Workshop for Kids

Monday, May 2, 5–6 pm

Join Madison's Poet Laureate Angela Trudell Vasquez and Madison Audubon Society educator, Carolyn Byers, as they team up to teach a poetry workshop based on our natural world and the creatures that exist side-by-side with us every day. Children in grades K–5 will be able to see and touch feathers, skulls, scat (rubber poop) and more. There will be short presentations by both instructors. We will engage in art making and sharing. This workshop will take place outdoors, and masks are recommended.

Art Inspiring Art: A Poetry Workshop for Adults

Thursday, May 5, 6–7:30 pm

Deepen your experience of art and explore the dynamics between art and poetry in this Ekphrastic poetry workshop. Join Madison's Poet Laureate Angela Trudell Vasquez, in collaboration with Gabrielle Javier-Cerulli, a local visual artist. Participants will discuss, read and view examples of Ekphrastic poetry (poetry written in response to art) and be guided through creating their own poems and art.

Chess at the Library

Second and Fourth Mondays, April 11 and 25, May 9 and 23, 6–8 pm

All ages and skill levels are welcome to play.

Scrabble at the Library

Wednesdays, April 6–May 25, 10 am–12 pm

Attention word lovers. Exercise your brain by playing Scrabble with other adults.

Book Discussions

Read the book and join the discussion. New members are always welcome. Some discussions are online; check the library calendar or call for details.

NewBridge Book Discussion

First Wednesdays, 10–11 am

Apr. 6 – “The House of Broken Angels” by Luis Alberto Urrea

May 4 – “Jewelweed” by David Rhodes

Evening Book Discussion

First Thursdays, 6:30–8 pm

Apr. 7 – “The Good Lord Bird” by James McBride

May 5 – “When You Trap a Tiger” by Tae Keller

Daytime Book Discussion

Second Thursdays, 12–1 pm

Apr. 14 – “Cherokee America” by Margaret Verble

May 12 – “Silver Sparrow” by Tayari Jones

Mystery Book Group Discussion

Third Thursdays, 5:30–7 pm

Apr. 21 – “As the Wicked Watch” by Tamron Hall

May 19 – “The Thursday Murder Club” by Richard Osman

Teen Book Discussion

Last Wednesdays, 4–5:30 pm

Apr. 27 – Title to be determined

May 25 – Title to be determined

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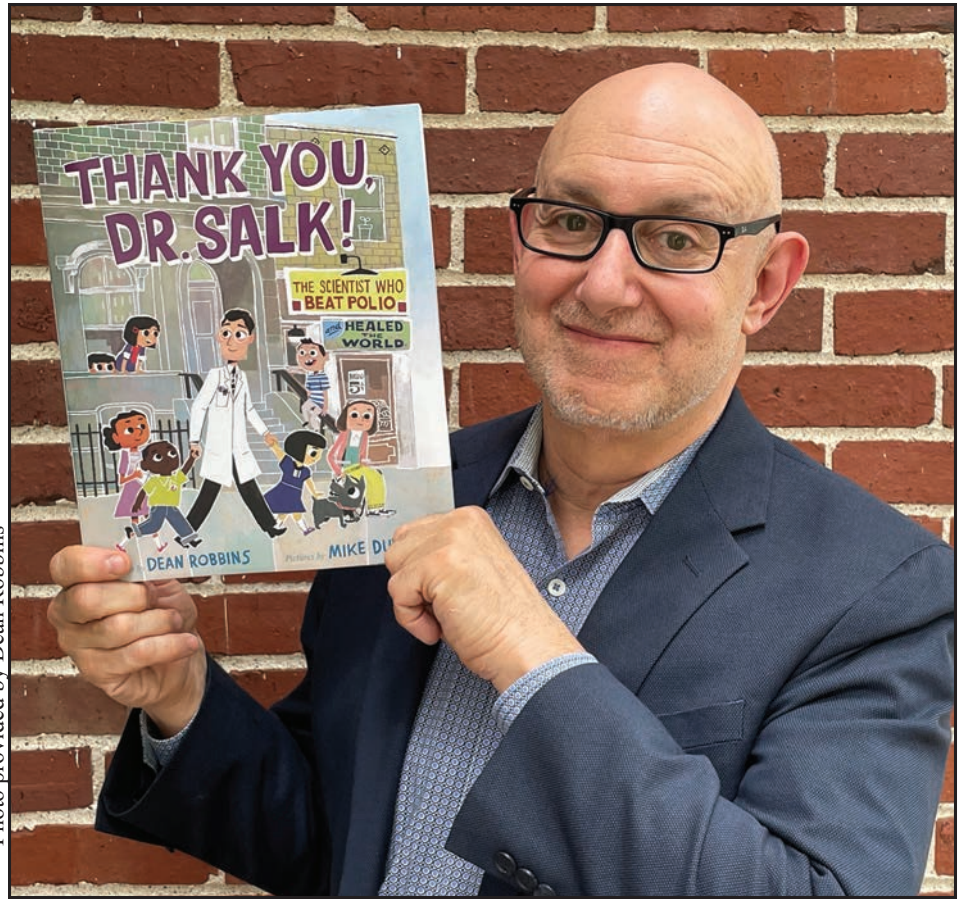


Photo provided by Dean Robbins

Dean Robbins will be at Lakeview Library April 2.

Children's author coming to Lakeview Library April 2

By Mary Manering
Friends of Lakeview Library

Dean Robbins, a much acclaimed children's author from Madison, will present “How to be a Real-Life Hero” featuring his four nonfiction picture book released in the last year.

These include: “Mambo Mucho Mambo! The Dance That Crossed Color Lines,” “The Fastest Girl on Earth! Meet Kitty O'Neil, Daredevil Driver,” “Thank You, Dr. Salk! The Scientist Who Beat Polio and Healed

the World,” and “You are a Star, Ruth Bader Ginsburg.”

Dean has the ability to help children understand and appreciate these real-life heroes. Adults will also find his stories insightful and thought provoking.

Every child will receive a free copy of one of his books, courtesy of the Friends of Lakeview Library.

Join us Saturday, April 2, at 10:30 am. This program is recommended for ages 4–12. Pre-register at Lakeview Library, as attendance is limited.

Hope you can make it.

Library Book Sale

The Friends of Lakeview Library will be accepting donations of books, DVDs, CDs, and vinyl Thursday, April 14, 10–11:30 am, and Friday, April 15, 10 am–8 pm at Lakeview Library.

A book sale will be held Saturday, April 16, 9 am–4 pm, with a bag sale 3–4 pm.

You're sure to find great books at bargain prices. All proceeds benefit library programming.

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ART

ARTS for ALL Wisconsin

By Lauri Lee
Northside News

When Christina Martin-Wright became the executive director of VSA Wisconsin four years ago, the Kennedy Center of the Arts in Washington DC announced that all VSA organizations around the world had to change the name of their organizations by the end of 2019. The timing couldn't have been better, as she became quickly familiarized with the organization. The rebranding process involved the need for a new website and new logo to go with the new name, ARTS for ALL Wisconsin. It was chosen because it summed up what they do — they work in all art forms, for all ages, all disabilities and all abilities.

The rebranding work was finished only six months before the beginning of the pandemic, which allowed the organization to adopt new ways of working that were far more digital/internet based. "I believe this allowed us to keep our doors open until we could invite people back in," said Martin-Wright. "A short time after the shutdown we could share videos of art making and music making from the teaching artists. We also resumed veteran programs in visual arts, creative writing and visual arts. Because it was web based, vets didn't have to come to Madison to participate. It allowed those who were deployed or had moved away to continue to be a part of our programs.

In Fall 2020, when choirs and programs restarted, staff offices became web and streaming studios. Often choir directors and teaching artists had

studios in their own homes, which allowed them to resume programming. It opened up the opportunity for more communities around Wisconsin to take our online classes. Choir participants could actually change the day of participation if they had a scheduling conflict. If the Appleton choir met on Tuesday, but Milwaukee was on Wednesday, they could join a different town's choir because it was online.

Many people think of ARTS for ALL as a visual art organization. We do have a gallery and sell art work at the Art Fair on the Square, and during the shutdown, more art sold online than ever before. We work in a multitude of art forms.

There's a long list of outcomes and objectives for participating in the programs. In addition to achieving a goal, there are additional benefits to the participant such as communication, connections to other people they wouldn't have otherwise met and more. A by product of these activities is that they also build fine and large motor skills while expressing something else.

Creative writing was added last year and the poems that will be on exhibit at the Center follow the theme of "change." We invite three jurors to select 10 Creative Power winners and merit awards. The Creative Power winners become part of the Creative Power traveling expedition. Every year, 10 pieces are retired and 10 new ones are selected.

As a leader during a pandemic, it has been an unexpected challenge. We have to temper enthusiasm of meeting in person again because the people we work

ARTS for ALL Wisconsin has new art director

By Christina Martin-Wright
ARTS for ALL Wisconsin

Peter Bovenmyer, ARTS for ALL Wisconsin's new art director, holds a PhD in art history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an undergraduate degree in art and design from Iowa State University. He has authored several art historical publications and is the recipient of fellowships from the American Academy in Rome and the Courtauld Institute of Art in London.

Following his studies, Peter worked for an art firm in Chicago before joining ARTS for ALL as art director in 2021. He is passionate about increasing visibility for artists with disabilities and expanding accessibility to the art market.



Peter Bovenmyer

with often have compromised immune systems. Getting back to business as usual has greater challenges than other organizations.

We learned some things during covid. It made people more compassionate and willing to try new things. While physical connection is important, we will keep meetings on Zoom. The virtual revolution during COVID-19 included so many people who were excluded by systems that relied on physical presence and having transportation. More voices can be heard now. The different forms of communication make us stronger.

Rooting

By Jason Robert Van Pelt

Free community envelopment
Common ground development
Pickleball as healthy as vitamins
Lo! Leafy trees treated like titans
Put rain gardens on a curb in
Beautiful Northside of urban
Spring a dream bike for a ride
Swing sets at a parkout side!

The True Value of Leisure

by Elisa Graf

If there are silver linings to be gleaned by living through a pandemic, learning to place more value on our time could very well be one of them. As daily life ground to a halt through lockdown and after, millions of us found ourselves with time on our hands. Though many jobs were lost and businesses shuttered, these stark conditions also gave many people a chance to re-evaluate their priorities.

In a November 2021 *Wired* article, Kathryn Hymes notes that people are now "...changing employers, 'downshifting' on the career ladder, or taking time away from the workforce altogether. With new clarity and savings from the Covid era, some workers have stepped back from precarious frontline jobs made brutally hard in the pandemic. Others report forgoing opportunities for money or status in exchange for greater flexibility and self-determination."

As a result, people are quitting their jobs in record numbers. According to the US Labor Department, an unprecedented four million people resigned from their jobs in April 2021 alone, leading observers to dub this period the "Great Resignation." This description, Hymes suggests, misses the point: "Taken on its surface, the Great Resignation foregrounds the language of job status, but misses a parallel, arguably bigger story: the radical realignment of values that is fueling people to confront and remake their relationship to life at home, with their families, with their friends, and in their lives outside of labor."

At another such historical moment nearly a century ago, when millions were suddenly jobless due to the Great Depression, the philosopher Bertrand Russell penned "In Praise of Idleness," an essay outlining the necessity for meaningful leisure for all human beings, and challenging our long-held cultural assumption that a person's value can only be measured by economic productivity. In a 2020 *New Statesman* article that notes today's relevance of Russell's argument, Max Hayward, Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Sheffield, explains, "Russell believed that we don't only need to reform the economic system in which some are worked to the bone while others suffer jobless destitution, we also need to challenge the cultural ethic that teaches us to value ourselves in proportion to our capacity for 'economically productive labor.' Human beings are more than just workers. We need to learn how to value idleness."

Hayward points out that with GDP as our standard measure for success, "...we must deem one society a relative failure if its citizens earn on average £1,000 a year less than its neighbors, even if they have more leisure, play more sports, take more walks, read more books, listen to more music, and paint more pictures."

But, he says, this thinking dooms us: "The society that Russell imagines — one that invests in meaningful idleness — is truly revolutionary, not just because its economic structures have been reformed, but because it has changed the way it understands, and values, itself."

In his book, *The Art of Living*, Benjamin Creme, chief source of information about the return to the everyday world of Maitreya, the World Teacher, defines leisure as a God-

given quality: "...[leisure is] doing what you innately want to do, which is to be creative; it is the opportunity to be creative."

He explains creative activity, coming from the soul, as the nature of life. He says that the art of living is in fact creative living, which entails all aspects of life. This is why, he says, leisure is essential.

Yet as a result of today's stressful living conditions, Creme adds, "Most people are so devitalized by repetitive work processes, by poor conditions, by the sheer deadness and sameness of their activities day by day, that creativity is almost the last thing you could expect."

In addition, as a result of widespread poverty and social injustice, mass numbers of people around the planet live deeply unfulfilled lives, dedicated only to earning enough to survive, therefore finding no opportunity for leisure. Creme argues that it is this enforced poverty that prevents the demonstration of the true inner spiritual nature of humanity.

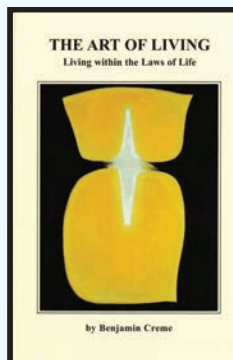
The solution is the sharing of the world's resources so that every person has access to the goods to meet basic needs. Under Maitreya's inspiration, Creme explains, humanity will begin to see itself as one family, and make the required changes to create a saner, more just world for all. Among Maitreya's recommendations is a shift in social priorities so that adequate food, housing, clothing, education, and medical care become universal rights.

"Education for leisure," writes Benjamin Creme, "will release in people the possibility for the development of their inner skills, talents and potential in a way which could hardly be envisaged at present."

What might such education look like? To Bertrand Russell, it should be one of education's primary goals to equip the population with the necessary abilities, knowledge, and habits to enjoy creative leisure. Max Hayward suggests, "This would mean reform: access to higher education would need to be greatly expanded, while university and school curricula should place as much emphasis on creative arts and the pursuit of pure curiosity as on employable skills."

In these times of unprecedented global crisis, the freeing of human beings by the enabling of more leisure has the potential to promote a renaissance — the flourishing of human creativity that could truly transform our world.

"Leisure is doing what you would like to do, what rests the body, the mind, the heart, or which allows you the time to do for yourself something over and above what you do for the community."
— Benjamin Creme, *The Art of Living*



To discover more
about *The Art of Living* and the cover painting, "Soul Infusion" (from the book, *The Esoteric Art of Benjamin Creme*), please visit share-ecart.com/store/books
Maitreya, the World Teacher, is here to guide and assist humanity into the new time, and says: "In equal measure to the present discord, so will be the peace."
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Energy efficiency upgrades on the Northside are happening

By Valora Gutierrez
Sustain Dane

“We are so appreciative, and impressed with the quality and speed of the work. When we went into the units, we could tell how much warmer it was and how much tighter the airflow felt in there. It sounds like the tenants also had a great experience, so we are super grateful for that as well,” said a Northside owner working with Sustain Dane and Elevate.

The Efficiency Navigator program is funding efficiency upgrades in apartments on the Northside. The first implementation focused on insulating sidewalls, where there was a high amount of air transfer. The project was completed on time in two days. Residents were engaged in the process from the beginning to improve comfort and reduce energy bills. The owner, residents, and contractor all gave positive feedback and felt that working together exceeded expectations.

A limited number of spots are still available to join the program. Learn more, recommend your building as a resident, or apply as a property owner at <https://sustaindane.org/sustain-dane-programs/#efficiencynavigator> or email valora@sustaindane.org.

The Efficiency Navigator program provides rental buildings on the Northside of Madison a grant of approximately \$10,000–\$20,000 for upgrading efficiency measures such as efficient lighting, improved heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, improved insulation, and more. Upgrades are anticipated to save up to 20% on energy and water bills, make more comfortable and resilient homes, and support a healthier planet.

Buildings must be renter occupied, 2–20 units, and be unsubsidized (units with voucher holders are eligible). The rent should be at or below the City of Madison’s Fair Market Rent limit, and owners must commit to maintain Fair Market Rent for at least three years after the upgrades. We strongly encourage owners of buildings with families and buildings with high utility bills to apply.

What is provided:

- Single point of contact from planning to implementation
- Energy & water assessment and report for upgrades
- Focus on Energy in-unit savings packs for residents
- Recommended pool of contractors, contractor coordination, and review of bids
- Funding of \$10,000 - \$20,000
- Direct payments to contractor (owner will not need to be reimbursed)
- On-site review of completed work
- Education about energy and water saving and more comfortable and healthy homes.

The Efficiency Navigator program is a partnership between Sustain Dane, Elevate, the Northside Planning Council, the City of Madison, and the WI Public Service Commission Office of Energy Innovation.

NONPROFIT FEATURE



Areli Estrada, Executive Director of Affordable Dental Care

Affordable Dental Care treats those with no dental insurance

By Lauri Lee
Northside News

Nobody should have to put off a visit to the doctor or dentist, stretch their medication, or delay a medical procedure. But the high costs of healthcare, dental care and insurance coverage have made necessary care seem more like a luxury for many people. With spiraling food, energy and housing costs, the number of uninsured adults who skip dental care because of its expense is on the rise, especially after the pandemic.

For the Northside and Madison region, there’s a nonprofit with the mission of filling the gap in dental care for uninsured individuals. Affordable Dental Care, 2110 Fordem Ave., offers complete general dentistry services for cleanings, periodontal therapies, x-rays, fillings, crowns, bridges, dentures and partials for those who face financial difficulty to afford the services needed for their household to maintain good oral health. A comprehensive exam is performed and based on that, patients receive a dental treatment plan and are instructed on healthy oral hygiene habits. The organization’s dental fee model charges around 50% or more of the standard dental fees so an individual can afford to get the dental care they need, when they need it.

High dental care costs are a real problem and disproportionately affect uninsured adults, Black and Hispanic adults, and those with lower household incomes, especially where they or a member of their household has a serious or chronic health condition. “Our organization’s mission is to restore hope, health, and opportunity through quality dentistry to those at risk through our nonprofit, partner-powered model that treats any individual who has put off dental care due to financial, physical or educational hardship,” said Executive Director, Areli Estrada. “We don’t accept insurance and never compete with private practice dentistry or government community healthcare. Our nonprofit exists to fill the gap for patients who fall into neither of those categories.”

Dental services are the most common type of medical care that people report

delaying or skipping due to cost. When it gets to the point of excruciating pain and seeing a dentist is unavoidable, those with no insurance are faced with a large bill often impacting the ability of the household to have enough money to pay it along with their other basic living expenses and debt.

Pushing dental care down the road may provide short-term financial savings, but it has long-term health implications. Leaving a simple toothache untreated can result in an abscess, gum disease, tooth loss and even bone loss. The more advanced the dental problem, the more painful and invasive the procedure is needed to correct the problem. Oral health is linked to an individual’s overall health condition, so when dental issues are left untreated or treatment is delayed, there could be additional unwelcome consequences. Poor oral health, particularly gum disease, has been linked to several chronic diseases, including diabetes, heart disease and stroke. In pregnant women, poor oral health has been associated with premature births and low birth weight. These conditions may be prevented in part with regular visits to the dentist.

There’s a high demand for the services of Affordable Dental Care. At present, there is a three month wait for a patient to see a dental hygienist. Last year, 2700 patients were seen at the clinic and the number has continued to grow. In an ideal scenario, the clinic needs a bigger space with four additional dental chairs to serve more patients. Past grants have provided for the current dental equipment, but additional sources of funding are needed to cover the new expenses. The clinic is renting their office suite and to be more sustainable, they would like to purchase the space to eliminate the \$40,000 annual rent. With a capital campaign, they could purchase the entire building, which would allow them to retire their current debt and provide the needed expansion to help more people. Donations of \$25-\$1,000 can help offset the costs of dental care for children, seniors, veterans and those who require emergency care. To make a donation or to pledge seed money to start a capital campaign, please contact Executive Director Areli Estrada at 608-622-4002.

Photo by Jan Axelson



The wastewater pumping station at Cherokee Marsh’s South Unit is getting new pumps, pipes and other upgrades.

The rehab of the School Road pumping station nearly done

By Jan Axelson
Northside News

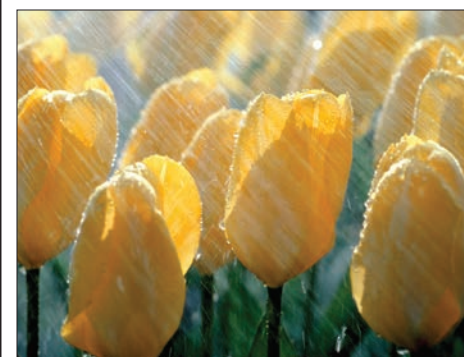
Tucked away in Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park’s South Unit is a brick building known as Pumping Station 14. Located along the gravel entrance road at the corner of Wheeler Road and School Road, the pumping station is one of 18 pumping stations managed by the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD).

Amanda Wegner, MMSD’s communications and public affairs manager, explains, “As much as possible, the wastewater collection system uses gravity and the land’s natural slope to move wastewater. Pumping stations help move wastewater from a lower elevation to a higher elevation, using mechanical energy to move the wastewater uphill through pressurized pipes.”

First put in service in 1971, Pumping Station 14 serves DeForest, Waunakee, Westport, Windsor, Dane, Vienna and part of Madison. The station receives wastewater from these areas and pumps it toward the next station in line on the way to the Nine Springs treatment plant south of Lake Monona. Wastewater from areas to the north travels under the Yahara River from Dane County’s Cherokee Marsh Natural Resource Area to the station.

In late 2020, construction began on an extensive rehab project for the station. The project includes replacing the pumps and piping and adding an onsite generator, a new control system and odor control equipment. Supply chain issues have delayed the project’s completion, now scheduled for this summer.

Happy Spring



SCHOOL AND YOUTH

Boys and girls find fun and adventure in Scouts BSA

By Liz Windsor-Engnell
Scouts BSA

In February Scout Troops 127 and 7127 joined Pack 127 at Sherman Avenue United Methodist Church for the Cub Scout's monthly pack party. Cubmaster Matt Meyer began the party by awarding belt loops to the Cub Scouts for various adventures they had completed the previous month.

The party continued with the crossing over ceremony for Arrow of Light Scout Eli Windsor-Engnell, who completed all the ranks of Cub Scout and crossed over into Scout Troop 127.

The crossing over ceremony is a special ceremony that brings together Cub Scouts and BSA Scouts (formerly Boy Scouts) to celebrate and welcome an Arrow of Light scout to the rank of BSA scout.

Prior to crossing over, a Cub Scout typically begins their journey as a Lion Cub (kindergarten) or a Tiger Cub (first grade). Children can join Cub Scouts at any age during elementary school: Wolf (second grade), Bear (third grade), Webelo (fourth grade), and Arrow of Light (fifth grade). Each year brings age-appropriate adventures, including hiking and nature

activities, as well as crafts and games, and adventures such as cooking, first aid, building and knife skills for the older Cub Scouts.

Monthly meetings include two week y small group meetings (den meetings) and a pack party with the entire pack

Once a Cub Scout crosses over into Scouts BSA, the adventures continue with monthly camping trips, including a weeklong summer camp. Scouts BSA offers many more fun outings and opportunities for a variety of activities. In March BSA Scouts went swimming at a local indoor pool, scouted for food to donate to a local

food pantry, and tried their hand at a winter camping adventure.

If you are interested in joining Cub Scouts, (grades K-5), contact Cubmaster Matt Meyer at 608-571-7161 or email info@cubscoutpack127.com. If you are interested in joining Scouts BSA (grades 6-12), contact Scoutmaster Justin Sargent (boys) at iscuba@sbcglobal.net, or Scoutmaster Paul Hughes (girls) at psuspark@gmail.com.

Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA are for boys and girls. The thriving Troop 7127 is one of the first girl's troops in the Madison area.



(L- R) Assistant Scoutmaster and Scout Guide Wally Meyer with new BSA Scout Eli Windsor-Engnell



(L-R) Penny Powell, Ada Meyer, Lauren Billings, Cynthia Propsom, Ian Kimbell, Audrey Billings, Stedman Windsor-Engnell, Eli Windsor-Engnell and Lukas Kubasik

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A Northside Scholarship

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For details see: <https://tinyurl.com/fundapply>

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SCHOOL AND YOUTH

Spring STEM accomplishments at East High School

By Cynthia Chin
East High School

The East High Math Club has completed another exciting season of competition between local schools and at the Wisconsin Math Council’s all-state event in March. Successes include an unprecedented six students with ribbons at the Madison-area meet: 4th Place Ribbons — Victoria Lenius, Tessa Clark, Molly Lenius, Sam Rickert; 2nd Place Ribbon — Nicole Hanser; 1st Place Ribbon — Benjy Haber-Fawcett. Supporting team members included Linken Bergmann, Rossalyn Kiley, Bethany Evans, Sam Rickert, Francesca Barroso and Katelin Loch.

Ten members of the Engineering Club entered the Wisconsin Kidwind Competition, hosted by the Wisconsin Energy Institute at UW-Madison. This was the first-ever EHS entry in this state-level competition, and students learned a great deal from the experience.

They built a wind turbine with a

homemade electrical generator and designed an original base. In addition to presenting their own project on the contest date, they competed to raise a model turbine tower and to find a good wind farm site, based on topology and meteorological data.

Career information rounded out the day, with many engineers, college faculty and industry representatives on hand. The Purgolder Team came away with the “Spirit Award” for the day, among 11 teams, and was specifically commended for teamwork, positive learning attitude, and asking good questions.

Congratulations to team members Martin Barroso, Levi Eberly, Avery Hagen, Ethan Hirsch, Ana McCallum-Moore, Liam Olson, Ebrima Sabally, Aiden Schmiedlin, Christopher Teggatz and Jenkin Yang.

New students are always welcome to join the club. Students with an interest in alternative energy or hands-on problem solving may wish to participate in next year’s competition.



Photos by Cynthia Chin



Ten members of the EHS Engineering Club entered the Wisconsin Kidwind Competition, hosted by the Wisconsin Energy Institute at UW-Madison

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ENVIRONMENT

Hoping for ripple effects from mural project on Northside

By Beth Sluys
Northside News

When Jean Krieg was out riding her bike, she rode past the Goodman Center where she couldn't help but notice the mural painted around the storm drain nearby. The mural seemed like a great way to remind people that we can all do things to help reduce the amount of pollutants and trash that make their way into our lakes.

This image stuck with her. So, when the Madison Area Stormwater Partnership announced it was accepting applications for the Storm Drain Mural Program, Krieg applied. As a result, we will soon have a mural on a storm drain on Forster Drive near Warner Park.

The Storm Drain Mural Program is a collaboration of the Madison Area Municipal Stormwater Partnership and an independent mural artist, Sonya Sankaran, with the focus being to create visual messages that will educate residents about storm water pollution through the use of art.

The goal of installing a mural is to do the very thing that happened to Krieg — to capture our attention and remind us that we all need to help keep our lakes clean. It has rippled to the Northside.

For Krieg, it has been “a way to connect during COVID and educate people about lake health. My hope is that we can raise

awareness about keeping our lakes clean.”

During a planning meeting of the mural team, led by Christal Campbell of the Madison Area Stormwater Partnership, participants were reminded that we often don't give much thought to the storm drains in our streets. The drains are a connection of underground pipes designed to collect surface runoff and direct it from the streets to our local lakes and rivers. We tend to notice them most when they are clogged, or we have flooding. Our storm drains carry water to local waterways without being cleaned, carrying trash, sand, soil and other pollutants to our area waterways.

There are many ways we can help: picking up trash, clearing leaves out of the streets in front of our houses, and using less salt on our sidewalks and driveways in winter.

The project for the Forster Drive mural (near 1330 Forster Drive) will be completed by a team of Lerdahl Park neighbors and Krieg, with the creative support of mural artist Sonya Sankaran (sonyasankaran.com). The mural outline will be painted by Sankaran and then the team will complete the mural design. The project will require some preparation of the storm drain and the actual painting will occur in June.

To learn more about this program and to see a map of the locations of all of the murals in Dane County, visit ripple-effects.com/Storm-Drain-Murals or contact Christal Campbell at campbell.christal@countyofdane.com.



Mural design that will be painted at the Forster Drive location

Plug into your neighborhood farm at Rooted on Troy Drive

By Taylor Foster
Rooted/Troy Farm

Plug in to your neighborhood farm. This summer, Rooted has a number of ways you can get involved at 502 Troy Drive. We welcome all residents to this land on Troy Drive and are always willing to answer any questions from our neighbors.

Learn more about the programs and opportunities below at rootedwi.org. And you can always contact us directly at troyfarm@rootedwi.org or by calling 608-240-0709.

Urban Agriculture Training Programs

We are accepting applications for our Urban Farmer and Garden Educator Training Programs, with summer and full season options. The training programs are open to anyone 18 years old and above. Participants are paid for their time and labor

with money and a weekly vegetable stipend to use at the farmstand for fresh produce.

Urban Farmers in Training get field-based, seed-to-harvest experience in every aspect of small-scale vegetable farming. Trainees learn how to use equipment like the tractor; learn topics like soil fertility and irrigation; sell at the farmers market and weekly farmstand; and participate in classes on topics such as food justice, the history of agriculture and organic certification.

Garden Educators in Training get experience developing and implementing garden-based learning activities and curricula. No previous gardening or farming experience is necessary.

Worker Share Volunteers

Troy Farm relies on volunteers to help with the farm and markets. Worker Share Volunteers commit to working either

four hours per week or eight hours per week and receive \$600 worth of vegetable credit to use at one of the farm stands.

Worker Share Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. No previous gardening or farming experience is necessary.

Become a Troy Farm Member

Troy Farm members select a membership level — \$150, \$300, \$450 or \$600 — and select their produce each week throughout the 20-week growing season. Members visit our farm stands on Thursday evenings at 502 Troy Drive or Sundays at the Northside Farmers Market and pick out the vegetables they want in the quantities that work for their household. The season starts June 2 and ends Oct. 13.

We grow 60 varieties of produce, so your household is sure to find the vegetables you love — and even try something new. Becoming a farm member helps sustain the farm, the training programs, and our food access initiatives.

Through our Food Access Initiative, memberships are available at discounted rates to income-qualified households.

We accept membership payment by check, credit card or EBT/SNAP. You can pay in one or several installments.

Visit us

There is so much more happening at 502 Troy Drive this summer. We are excited to again hold community meals Thursday nights featuring Troy Farm vegetables and food prepared by local chefs.

Families can register for family field trips to dig, grow, eat and explore with Rooted's garden education staff.

Stay tuned

You can follow Rooted right here in the Northside News or on social media at [Facebook.com/RootedWI](https://www.facebook.com/RootedWI) or [Instagram.com/RootedWI](https://www.instagram.com/RootedWI).

10th Annual Madison FUN Bird and Nature Festival coming April 24

By Paul Noeldner
Madison FUN Groups

Madison became a Wisconsin Bird City in 2013 by committing to help birds and natural habitat in parks and yards throughout the city. This commitment continues as Madison celebrates 50 years of conservation parks and supports smart urban nature that helps people as well as birds through clean water efforts, reduced use of pesticides, pollinator gardens, rain gardens, cats indoors, bird-safe glass, and equitable access to natural areas for all neighborhoods.

Come to the 10th Annual Madison Bird and Nature Festival on Sunday afternoon, April 24, at the Warner Park Rainbow Shelter. The festival will

feature a free, public, walk-through live raptor show with hawks, owls and eagles presented by Open Door Bird Sanctuary.

Bring friends and family and make it an afternoon of outdoor fun. Learn about native trees, tiny aquatics, birds, butterflies, bees, and how you can enjoy and help them at educational nature group exhibits. Enjoy hayrides, food carts, music, face painting, kites and lots of fun activities for children.

For more details, please visit CityofMadison.com/Calendar/Bird-Nature-Festival-2022 and <http://tinyurl.com/BirdAndNatureFestival>. Contact Paul Noeldner (608-698-0104 or paul_noeldner@hotmail.com) to volunteer, reserve a free table for your group, or get answers to questions.

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ENVIRONMENT



Returning birds are a sign of spring

by Paul Noeldner
Madison FUN Groups

April and May bring the joy and music of returning spring birds. Wisconsin's official bird is the American robin (*turdus migratorius*, which means "thrush that migrates"). The "cheerup, cheerup" call of robins looking for worms in newly thawed patches of ground is a happy sign warmer weather is returning.

Some less well known birds are also reliable signs of spring. The turkey vulture is a large magnificent black bird about two feet high. They are also known as TVs, for short, because they can soar for hours on thermals (rising warm air) with their five-foot wings held up in a V. Turkey vultures are important because they help clean up the environment when misfortune happens to a bunny or a deer,

but only when weather is above freezing, so we know spring is here when turkey vultures appear soaring in the sky with their wings in a V.

Another reliable sign of spring are the robin-sized red-winged blackbirds that love to perch and sing atop trees and cattails along Madison's lakes and marshes. Red-winged blackbirds have beautiful red epaulets (shoulder patches) that sometimes flash a bit of yellow, almost like a sports team logo for the red-winged blackbird team. They look like they are playing an accordion when they expand their chest and spread their wings while calling a happy "cor-reeeee, cor-reeeee" as if to say, "here is my home."

You can enjoy seeing robins, turkey vultures and red-winged blackbirds in Madison all summer long.

Photo by Jan Axelson



Cherokee Marsh was one of Madison's first conservation parks.

Madison celebrates 50 years of conservation parks

By Jan Axelson
Friends of Cherokee Marsh

Established in 1971, Cherokee Marsh Conservation Park was one of Madison's first conservation parks. The City of Madison established its conservation park program to conserve high quality prairie, woods, wetlands, geological features and historical sites. Trail systems provide access for environmental education and enjoyment.

Cherokee Marsh played a major role in making elected officials and others aware of the need to protect land for conservation. In 1957 Paul Olsen, a conservationist and Midvale School Principal, urged acquiring land at Cherokee Marsh and stressed the importance of protecting the natural areas, the fishery and the health of downstream lakes. The idea had strong public support, but at the time the city didn't have funds to buy the land.

By 1964, after approval to build the Cherokee Golf Course and the announcement of plans to build housing in what is now the Cherokee Park neighborhood, funding was found. In 1967, the city owned 934 acres in and around the marsh.

With the addition of land at Cherokee Marsh and other locations, park managers realized that conservation land needed different management compared to parks used for sports and picnicking. In 1971, Madison's Parks and Open Space Plan defined conservation parks as a special type of park.

Today Madison has 21 conservation parks. The Northside has Cherokee Marsh's North, South and Mendota units and Meadow Ridge Conservation Park. Over the years, staffing and other resources for managing conservation parks have increased, and management methods have evolved.

This year will see the introduction of goats in Cherokee Marsh's South Unit near the corner of Wheeler Road and School Road. Temporary fences will enclose selected areas that have been overtaken by non-native, invasive brush. A small herd of goats hired from a local farm will be set loose to browse in the fenced area. Browsing usually doesn't kill the brush but sets it back and reduces the need for other control methods.

Si Widstrand, whose career at Madison Parks included working as a park ranger, conservation resources manager, and planning and development director, recalls, "Progress seemed really slow back in the early days, but then it accelerated. We've now accomplished so much more than I ever imagined, and it has happened only because so many people worked together carrying on the conservation tradition that goes back a long way in Madison. We don't always get what we want, but we always make progress because we keep trying."

You can learn more about Madison's conservation parks and upcoming events at cityofmadison.com/parks/find-a-park/conservation.

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From
Captain Kelly Donahue
 North District Police



North District officers have joined with our Community Outreach and Resource Education (CORE) Team's Officer Lu Senatus at Warner Park Community Center for Friday night basketball. Officers are enjoying meeting our school-aged neighbors on the court. Growing up in Florida, Officer Senatus was taught to fear the police. Through programs like Friday night basketball, Officer Senatus interacted with local police officers and is now doing his part, with CORE, to bridge that gap between youth and police.

We appreciate the fellowship and commitment from our neighbors to make a difference in our community and believe this is just one of many things we can do to bridge those gaps.

Frequently asked questions at North PD:

Are you open to the public? Our lobby is open from 8 am–4 pm There is not always an officer available at the station. Depending on calls for service, there may be a wait even if you come to the station. There is a telephone in the entryway that rings to the 911 Center. They can assist you in getting an officer to the station or elsewhere. That phone is accessible 24 hours a day. There is also an emergency lock that will provide you with a safe place to wait until officers arrive.

What number do I call for a non-emergency? 608-255-2345

Do you have a med dropbox at the station? No. The nearest med drop is at Northeast Family Medical Clinic at 3209 Dryden Dr.

Can I pick up a copy of a police report at NPD? We are not able to release police reports at NPD. Our records custodians are responsible for reviewing and redacting reports prior to release. You can contact our records section for more information at 608-267-1117 or cityofmadison.com/police/support/records.

From
Taiya Bach
 MPH, RD, CD



Nutrition sleep connection

Multiple studies have found that people who do not get adequate sleep are at an increased risk of obesity. Lack of sleep has been linked to increased food intake. Hormones that help control hunger and appetite are often thrown out of whack by periods of sleep loss. Sleeplessness can encourage tendencies to select high-calorie foods that may not be good for us.

A recent article by researchers at the University of Chicago School of Medicine and UW-Madison highlights the link between sleep, caloric intake and weight. The randomized clinical trial had 80 overweight, young adults that were split into two groups. The "Intervention Group" received a sleep counseling session, and the "Control Group" did not. The goal was to increase participants' total sleep duration to 8.5 hours each night.


The findings: the Intervention Group increased their sleep by 1.2 hours compared to the Control Group. The Intervention Group also decreased the calories they consumed each day and showed a modest reduction in weight.

Esra Tasali, one of study's authors, wrote, "Now we've shown that in real life, without making any other lifestyle changes, you can extend your sleep and eat fewer calories. This could really help people trying to lose weight."

Thus, maintaining adequate sleep habits over time could lead to meaningful weight loss or prevent added weight gain. Tasali noted, "Limiting the use of electronic devices before bedtime appeared as a key intervention."

Join me in May, which has been deemed "Better Sleep Month" by the Better Sleep Council, by going to bed early and increasing your shuteye. It may help you get out of the right side of the bed in the morning and benefit your physical health.

Taiya Bach is a registered dietitian with the UW-Department of Nutritional Sciences.



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Giving back to our Northside neighbors

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ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
Satya Rhodes-Conway
Mayor



Metro Transit is in the midst of major planning process that will redesign its entire route structure, a change the system hasn't seen in more than 20 years. This design will be a large reallocation of service to make

trips more frequent and direct, provide better access to jobs, and implement a system that is just easier to use.

There are some tradeoffs with this redesign. Service will be more focused on major streets and moved from routes that currently travel through less dense neighborhoods. As a result, some riders may see longer walks to stops.

A draft plan of this new service is available, and we are now asking for public input. Public feedback is extremely important to make sure this new draft service design is right for the community.

From
Charles Myadze
District 18 Alderperson



Here are updates on several projects of special interest to the Northside.

Troy Drive bridge

I am very pleased that funding for the replacement of the Troy Drive railroad overpass was awarded to the city. I began championing this project from the moment I was elected. This dangerous bridge was of great concern to the residents in this area. The bridge was so low, sanitary trucks either ran into it or had to use an alternative route, creating more traffic on Knutson Drive. Staff and parents at Mendota Elementary School knew that the tunnel by the bridge was narrow and deteriorating and worried about children using it.

The new bridge would span the entire right of way, allowing for two vehicle lanes, bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the road. We will bring the plans to

the neighborhood for comment.

Raemisch Farm development

I supported the proposal from a developer that would bring much-needed affordable housing and environmental preservation to the Northside while also providing sound mitigation for residents. Unfortunately, the proposal needed 15 votes out of 20 at the Common Council. It did not pass.

I appreciated the mayor's comments to the council during the debate: "I just ask that as you think about the decisions you make, we stay grounded in reality and what is possible ... because I think we're getting a little lost in that. I don't think we're being grounded in reality."

I will keep you posted on what happens next with this project.

Metro Transit redesign

The Northside is losing access and routes in the proposed redesign of Madison's bus system. Please make your voice heard by attending public meetings and filling out the survey at cityofmadison.com/metro/routes-schedules/transit-network-redesign.

As always, please contact me with questions or concerns: 608-571-7342 or district18@cityofmadison.com.

Both the draft plan and a public input survey are now available online at mymetrobus.com/Redesign. Printed versions are also available at Metro's main office and all city library locations. Printed versions of the survey will be available soon at library locations and on Metro buses.


Draft plans and surveys can also be requested by calling Metro's customer service center at 608-266-4466 or emailing mymetrobus@cityofmadison.com. You can also give your feedback comments over the phone or ask a customer service

representative to fill out a survey for you.

We will collect feedback on the draft plan through April and present survey results to the City of Madison Transportation Policy and Planning Board in May. A final plan will be developed this summer. Once a final plan is in place, redesigned service will roll out in the summer of 2023.

Stay up-to-date on this project by attending public meetings and signing up for email and text alerts. Complete information can be found at mymetrobus.com/cityofmadison/redesign.

From
Syed Abbas
District 12 Alderperson



Hi neighbors,

In my previous District 12 blogpost, I shared my concerns about the Metro network redesign. As you may recall, I organized a neighborhood meeting with Alder Myadze Jan. 20 to make sure my constituents' voices get heard. Metro collected feedback there and presented the draft network redesign at the Jan. 31 Transportation Policy and Planning Board meeting.

Metro is in the final stage of collecting feedback and conducting neighborhood meetings. As I previously expressed, I have concerns and want the Northside to get its fair share of city resources, especially since many of you rely on Metro for day-to-day transportation.

In the current network redesign, people will have longer to walk, and many stops will be eliminated, including Route 17, which connects Pick 'n Save (meaning

people won't have access to buy groceries via public transportation).

Pick n' Save management reached out to me, staff and the mayor expressing concern. See excerpt below:

"As a company, we have been serving the Madison community for several years. Roundy's operates 14 stores under the banners Pick 'n Save and Metro Market in the Madison Metropolitan area. Five ... are located within the City of Madison. Many of our associates who work at our City of Madison store locations rely on Metro Transit bus service to get to work each day:

- Approximately 25% of our store associates at our Pick 'n Save Aberg location use Metro Transit bus route #17 as their source of transportation to and from work
- We estimate about 20% of our Pick 'n Save Aberg customers rely on Metro Transit bus route #17 for their grocery shopping needs."

I urge you to review the network redesign. If it impacts you or your family, please reach out to the mayor, Metro staff or email me.

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ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive



Explore the outdoors this spring
As the snow starts to melt and the temperature begins to rise, many residents will look to visit Dane County’s scenic parks, winding trails and tranquil lakes. With 34 natural resource and wildlife areas, 26 recreation parks, and over 100 miles of trails, Dane County has plenty of outdoor areas to explore.

Recently, Dane County Parks received the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association Outstanding Park Design Award for our first solar-powered park and campground at William G. Lunney Lake Farm County Park. The system has more than 460 solar panels and provides about 90% of the electricity needed for campers and day-use visitors.

Those interested in staying at this site or another Dane County campground can visit reservedane.com. Brigham is open year-round, and Lake Farm reopens

April 15. Babcock, Mendota and Token Creek campgrounds reopen April 29.

We’re also expanding Dane County’s network of bike trails. My 2021 county budget allocated \$6.5 million to construct the second phase of the Lower Yahara River Trail. Construction is set to begin in 2023 and will span from Fish Camp County Park to Lake Kegonsa State Park

We’ve partnered with Sauk County to invest \$4 million for planning and preparation of construction to link the Great Sauk State Trail with the Walking Iron Trail. When complete, this connection will provide a scenic recreational gateway over the Wisconsin River.

Dane County work hard to protect our natural resources, enhance outdoor spaces, and invest in quality-of-life experiences that make our community truly unique. Those interested in donating to support this mission can do so by visiting danecountyparks.com/get-involved/donate.

Dane County’s natural spaces are invaluable to our community. And like you, I look forward to warmer weather and getting back outside to enjoy all the Dane County Park system has to offer.

From
Melissa Agard
State Senator



A government that works for you
Every two years as legislators, we have the opportunity to prioritize the issues affecting our state. Wisconsinites are united on a number of beliefs: we want a state where our children and grandchildren can live, work, and play. We want a Wisconsin that not only serves us today, but tomorrow and the future.

With the 2021-2022 legislative session wrapping up, it is important that we reflect on the work we have done for Wisconsin people and the work still left to do.

We need progressive and pragmatic policy to build a Wisconsin that works for the many rather than the few. Instead of working toward a common vision during this legislative session, my Republican colleagues failed to prioritize the big issues affecting our state.

Wisconsinites agree on many issues:

from clean water and green environmental practices, to reliable infrastructure and transportation, to legalizing cannabis and raising the minimum wage. Despite deep bipartisan support for these policies, many of them did not even receive a public hearing from the Republican majority.

This isn’t right, and Wisconsinites deserve better. My Democratic colleagues and I have been working hard for our state and are committed to working for the interests of the Wisconsin people. Let’s be clear: you, the voters, are our bosses. We should be working for the common interests of the people.

While Republicans have dedicated this session to advancing corporate interests and perpetuating conspiracy theories and harmful policy — such as making it more difficult to vote — Democrats and Governor Evers have stayed vigilant for the interest of the people and the greater good.

My legislative agenda will always reflect the will of the people, and I look forward to continuing to address the issues that matter most in Wisconsin in the next legislative session.

From
Michele Ritt
District 18 Supervisor



We are lucky to have so many public lands and parks in Dane County. In fact, we have over 17,000 acres of land, including parks, dog parks, wildlife areas, natural resource areas, historical or cultural sites, and more. These natural areas welcome nearly 4 million visitors each year, but not all people utilize them.

Dane County Park and the Henry Vilas Zoo have teamed up to gather information that will help us to figure out how to provide better access to our parks and zoo. There is a full evaluation underway to understand who is accessing the parks and zoo, and what barriers exist that prevent people from doing so. The process is looking at this through a racial and social equity lens.

Please consider adding your voice to this effort. We would be grateful if you took a few minutes to complete the following survey: henryvilaszoo.gov/survey. All responses are confidential, and the survey is available in English, Spanish and Hmong. Please share it with friends, family and any others who would like to add their voices. All voices are important.

In last year’s budget, I added an amendment to provide \$500,000 in funds that will increase accessibility to our Dane County lands. The results of this thorough evaluation will help inform how those funds will be spent.

Your voice matters. I hope that, together, we can create a more accessible and equitable recreational system in Dane County. It is so beautiful here; I hope more of us can enjoy all that is available.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or issues. I can be reached at 608-335-6827 or ritt.michele@countyofdane.com.

Stay well.

From
Larry Palm
District 12 Supervisor



This has been a very difficult column to write. I will miss representing my current district and the many wonderful people on the Northside! It seems a long time ago when I was running to succeed Paul Rusk as the District 12 Dane County Board Supervisor.

While I will continue to serve much of the Sherman neighborhood, I leave Maple Bluff, Sheridan Triangle, Brentwood and my own Ek n Park far too early. During COVID, it had been a challenge to directly engage with residents and neighbors, and I appreciate those who have reached out to share their concerns,


questions and input. I encourage you to reach out to Michelle and Heidi as your new county board representatives.

The Public Health of Madison and Dane County mask order has expired, but I continue to encourage you to be safe, especially in confined spaced inside. When in doubt, protect yourself by wearing a mask.

I encourage you to take some time to sign-up for absentee voting for this year at myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Vote-Absentee-By-Mail. Signing up is easy and safe. While our next election is Tuesday April 5, 2022, looking forward there are many races in the fall that will be really important to the future of Wisconsin.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your representative, and please reach out to me at palm.larry@countyofdane.com if I can be of assistance in the future.

From
Samba Baldeh
State Representative



In May of last year, I introduced the CLEAR Act, a bill that would set water standards for PFAS contamination and provide modest grants to municipalities to clean-up their drinking water. After the bill was assigned to a committee, I waited for the announcement of a public hearing, but I heard nothing.

Six months later, when I introduced legislation that would end the unethical practice of overcharging for telecommunication services from county jails, I was under no illusion that the Committee on Corrections would hold a hearing to discuss its merits, despite the fact that it had bipartisan sponsorship.

That is because the Assembly’s Republican speaker instructed his committee chairs not to take up bills authored by Democrats. In fact, of the 268 bills

authored by Democrats this session, only seven of them have received a public hearing. If you support progressive policies, you might believe that no one represents your views at the Capitol.

Sadly, this was the intent of the GOP’s strategy. By not holding hearings on Democratic bills, the GOP effectively suppresses support for popular policies like increasing access to healthcare, adequately funding our schools, and requiring a \$15 per hour minimum wage. This strategy also keeps Democratic policies out of the media, which is left to focus on Republicans’ far right-wing agenda.

As a result, many folks are frustrated and have come to the conclusion that state government is not capable of finding solutions to the problems that affect them.

Don’t fall for it. While this legislative session has been challenging and full of missed opportunities and misplaced priorities, Governor Evers, my Democratic colleagues and I have been hard at work promoting sensible people-centered proposals.

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From **Jim Krueger**
NewBridge Executive Director

Many older adults fear that once they are removed from their home, they will have less contact with family and be forgotten by society. Being around younger generations more often, continuing to learn and see new things, being active and not treated with kid gloves all the time can improve an older adult's quality of life.

As my mother said many times, up until she died at 91, being with old people all the time made her feel older.

This month I encourage all of us to reach out to the older adults in our lives. Find out more about them. Listen to and respect what is important to them as they age. In the months and years ahead, let them do it their way and enjoy seeing them be happy. If they want some chocolate, let them have chocolate. Don't over worry or tell them they shouldn't do something because you feel they are too old. Appreciate your time together. Older adults have given us so much; let's return the favor.

May is Older Americans Month, when we celebrate older adults and the role their wisdom and experience play in shaping many of our decisions and actions. We recognize their lifelong efforts to build and maintain strong and resilient communities.

This month is also a reminder that it is our responsibility to ensure every older adult has the opportunity to age with dignity.

The 2022 theme is "Age My Way." And why not? Why can't older adults continue to be active and involved with their communities as long as they are able? Why can't older adults remain in their homes if they want to, instead of being put into assisted living or a nursing home?

Reach out to the older adults in your life and appreciate them and your time together.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mallards Game, Thursday, June 16 Take me out to the ballgame. Join us for food, fun and baseball. Tickets are \$22, and you get a ticket to the game, a meal, and a baseball cap. Reserve your seats now.

NewBridge Summer Concert Series: Mark your calendar now for our June and July Summer Concert Series on Mondays at 6 pm. New this year, there will be food cart vendors at each concert.

June 13, Rebulu Latin Jazz, in collaboration with the Madison Jazz Festival presented by Arts+Literature Laboratory and the Wisconsin Union Theater. Free Latin dance lessons from 5:15-5:45 pm, before the concert.

June 20, Frank Martin Busch & the Names

June 27, Universal Sound

July 11, Soggy Prairie

July 18, Eddie Butts Band

July 25, Ladies Must Swing

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

In-person activities are held at Warner Park Community Recreation Center, unless otherwise specified.

Bingo (in person and Zoom): Every Friday, 10:15-11:15 am (in person); second and fourth Fridays, 1-2 pm (Zoom)

Book Club (Zoom): First Wednesday of each month, 10 am

Bunco (in person): Every Monday, 2-4 pm

Card Making Club (in person): Second Wednesday of each month, 1-3 pm.

Chair Yoga with Kim (in person): Thursdays, 10:30-11:30 am (Note: there will be no class April 7 and April 14)

Easy Yoga Plus Classes with Ellen Millar (Zoom): Wednesdays and Fridays, 10-11 am

Mahjong (in person): Thursdays, 1-3 pm

Mindfulness Movement for LGBTQ Folks, Friends and Allies (in person): Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:15-11:45 am

Ping Pong (in person): Mondays, 9 am-12 pm; Wednesdays, 1-3 pm

Sewing Club (in person): First and third Thursdays of each month, 9 am-12 pm



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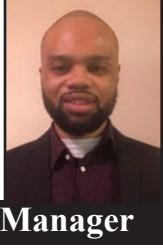
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WARNER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

Written by

Terrence Thompson

608-245-3690



WPCRC Facility Manager

I recently announced that I have received an internal promotion in the Parks Department. As such, this will be my final column. I want to say that it was an absolute pleasure serving with you over the last 4-1/2 years.

Leading the WPCRC has been the most fulfilling and rewarding

experience I have had in nearly 20 years in the parks and recreation industry. We have grown and accomplished so much together and transformed the landscape for what it means to be a barrier-free, safe space for young people across the city. The transformation was not possible without the community's support for a new vision centered on equity.

While I will no longer oversee WPCRC's daily operations, the WPCRC will remain under my supervision from an organizational chart perspective. Zach Watson will serve as the interim facility manager. I have full

confidence in Zach's ability to lead, and I ask you to give him your full support. You can reach Zach at 608-245-3684 or zwatson@cityofmadison.com.

The WPCRC will host the 17th Annual Spring Fest Arts and Crafts Fair Saturday, April 23, 9 am-3 pm. Over 80 crafters from throughout the Midwest will be selling their handmade goods, with lunch and snacks for sale by the Madison Starlings Volleyball program.

The WPCRC will be hosting the 4th Annual Spring Break-A-Way 3on3 Basketball Tournament Series. Tournaments will be held Friday

nights, April 29-May 27, 5-8 pm, and will feature middle school and high school divisions.

The WPCRC now offers Silver & Fit and Active & Fit memberships, providing eligible members access to the exercise room at no cost by reimbursing qualified health plans. Call 608-245-3669 to see if your health plan is eligible for membership.

Farewell and stay connected by liking our Facebook page @WarnerParkCRC.

Good luck, Terrence!

Circle of Friends still working for Warner Park pool

By **Dorothy Borchardt**
Circle of Friends

The Circle of Friends (CoF) is back and ready to go to work raising funds for the Warner Park Community Recreation Center (WPCRC) and the future pool.

Because of your support and generosity, several years ago the CoF established an endowment with the Madison Community Foundation to support the operating expenses of a Warner Park swimming pool.

The agreement states that if the pool is not operational as of Jan. 1, 2023, the distributions will be made to the City of Madison for the WPCRC, as advised by the CoF. Distributions will be redirected back to the Warner Park pool at such time as the facility is fully operational.

Hopefully, by the time you read this the CoF will have met with Parks Department and WPCRC staff to discuss the footprint of the needed WPCRC expansion and how it is laid out so it does not conflict with the only location next to the WPCRC that can support a pool. It is important to protect that area.

Membership in the CoF is open to all residents who support the WPCRC and want to be part of its continuing growth and success. Board members are selected from CoF members who have volunteered to help and have time to participate on a working board. Our board members are all volunteers, we have no paid staff. New members and volunteers are always welcome.

For more information, please contact dborchardt1@charter.net.

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17TH ANNUAL

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NORTHSIDE NEWS - Calendar of Events

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April/May 2022

DANE CORE 2.0 RENTAL ASSISTANCE

**Tuesdays, April 5-May 31, 2-5 pm
Lakeview Library**

Are you behind on your rent because of the pandemic, either directly or indirectly? You are not alone. Many people are experiencing financial hardship right now. The African Center for Community Development will be at Lakeview Library on Tuesdays to help individuals and families who owe back rent apply for Dane CORE assistance. Call the African Center for Community Development at 608-957-5623 or 608-514-9321 to schedule an appointment.

NORTHSIDE FARMERS MARKET

Every Sunday starting May 8, 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Northside TownCenter

Enjoy a variety of locally grown produce, baked goods, meats, flowers, plants and much more. Sign up for our newsletter at northsidefarmers-market.org or find us on Facebook at facebook.com/madNFM for the latest information on vendors and events.

SPARK! PROGRAMS FOR THOSE WITH MEMORY LOSS

**First Friday of every month, 10-11:30 am
ARTS for ALL, 1709 Aberg Ave., Suite 1**

SPARK! offers free programs for people with early to mid-stage memory loss and care partners. Programs include creative experiences in artmaking, drama, movement/dance, music, poetry or storytelling. Register each month at artsforallwi.org/programs/spark.

MAKE MUSIC MADISON

Registration April 1-May 25

Make Music Madison seeks performers and venues for this outdoor, citywide musical celebration held June 21. Make Music Madison celebrates all genres of music, skill levels and ages of musicians. Fill the city with music from 8 am-9 pm at outdoor venues hosted at community centers, museums, retailers, restaurants, parks, theaters, places of worship, private residences and other locations. Learn more at makemusicmadison.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

**Dean Robbins, Children's Author
10:30 am, LL**

Dean Robbins, an acclaimed children's author from Madison, will present "How to be a Real-Life Hero" featuring his four nonfiction picture books released in the last year. Every child will receive a free copy of one of his books, courtesy of the Friends of Lakeview Library. Recommended for ages 4-12. Pre-register at Lakeview Library; attendance is limited.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

**Bird and Nature Adventure: Magic of Migration
2:30 pm, Tenney Park**

Meet at the Tenney Park Beach parking lot, 1300 Sherman Ave. Join Master Naturalist Paul Noeldner for a guided bird walk to look for spring migrants, birds that are coming back from down south as weather warms. The Tenney locks bay is a popular stopover spot for colorful waterfowl. See tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures for a map and fun facts about birds, migration and a bird bingo card. Contact 608-698-0104.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

**Bird and Nature Adventure: Effects of Climate Change
1:30-3:00 pm, Cherokee Marsh North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave.**

Join Master Naturalist Alex Singer for this free guided walk. Contact 608-698-0104.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

**Evening at Cherokee Marsh: Woodcock Walk
6:30-8:30 pm, Cherokee Marsh North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave.**

View the sky dance of the American woodcock and look for sandhill cranes and other spring migrants and resident birds. Cherokee.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

**Curbside Breakfast with the Bunny
8-10:30 am, The River Food Pantry, 2201 Darwin Road**

"Everybunny" is invited to stop by this drive-thru event to pick up pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit and juice for the whole family. Pay what you can. The Easter Bunny will be handing out free goodie bags to the first 300 children. Proceeds benefit The River. Visit riverfoodpantry.org/bunny.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

**Wild Warner Meeting
7 pm, WPCRC**

Join other nature lovers to help support nature preservation, restoration, recreation and education in the wild side of Warner Park. See the Wild Warner Facebook page for updates and more information. Contact 608-698-0104.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

**Northside Blood Drive
3-6 pm, Door Creek Church, 1181 N. Sherman Ave.**

Sponsored by The River Food Pantry and Northside Planning Council, this public blood drive will support ImpactLife, provider of blood and blood components to SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital and Stoughton Health. Visit bloodcenter.org, code 4203.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

**Evening at Cherokee Marsh: Woodcock Walk
6:30-8:30 pm, Cherokee Marsh North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave.**

View the sky dance of the American woodcock and look for sandhill cranes and other spring migrants and resident birds. Cherokee.org

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

**Library Book Sale
9 am-4 pm, LL**

Hosted by the Friends of Lakeview Library, the book sale offers great books at bargain prices. A bag sale will be held 3-4 pm. We will accept donations of books, DVDs, CDs, and vinyl Thursday, April 14, 10-11:30 am, and Friday, April 15, 10 am-8 pm. All proceeds benefit library programming.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

**Bird and Nature Adventure: Looking for Ephemerals
1:30 pm, Warner Park Rainbow Shelter**

Join Master Naturalist Alex Singer for a free guided walk to enjoy the beauty of native wildflowers along the paths in Warner Woods, fresh buds on trees and native plants thrusting up fresh green leaves and stalks in the prairies and along wetland borders. See the Wild Warner Facebook page for info about Warner Park and tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures for a map and fun facts about ephemerals and native plants. Contact 608-698-0104.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

**Friends of Cherokee Marsh board meeting
5:30-7 pm, WPCRC**

The public is welcome. To confirm time and location, contact janaxelson@gmail.com or 608-215-0426. Cherokeemarsh.org

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

**Coffee with a Cop
9 am, WPCRC**

Please come and enjoy free coffee, free cookies, and great conversation with your officers on the Northside of Madison.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

**Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area meeting
5 pm, WPCRC**

Help save and restore this historic wetland and upland habitat as a nature park. The public is welcome. See facebook.com/hartmeyernaturalarea for updates and more information. Contact 608-698-0104.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

**Spring Fest Arts and Crafts Fair
9 am-3 pm, WPCRC**

The 17th annual fair will feature over 80 crafters from throughout the Midwest. Lunch and snacks will be for sale by the Madison Starlings Volleyball program.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

**Earth Day Challenge
10 am-12 pm, multiple locations**

Celebrate Earth Day by volunteering to pull garlic mustard and pick up trash in our parks and nature areas. Learn more and sign up at cityofmadison.com/calendar/earth-day-challenge-2022 or call 608-266-4711.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

**Bird and Nature Festival
12-4 pm, Warner Park Rainbow Shelter**

This is a free, family friendly nature festival. See live raptors presented by Open Door Bird Sanctuary. Learn about trees, aquatics, birds, bees and more on short guided walks and at educational nature table exhibits. Ongoing kids' activities include hayrides, food carts, music and more. See cityofmadison.com/calendar/bird-nature-festival-2022 and tinyurl.com/BirdAndNatureFestival for more details.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

**Second-Hand Chic Boutique
3-5 pm, Sherman Church, 3705 N. Sherman Ave.**

Offering free, gently used and new women's (and some men's) clothing in sizes M-4XL, from dresses and office wear to athletic wear, shoes and jewelry. For more information, email Caitlin McGahan at cailin_mcgahan@yahoo.com or call 608-444-8198.

SUNDAY, MAY 1

**Bird and Nature Adventure: Spring Birds
1:30-3:00 pm, Cherokee Marsh North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave.**

Join Chuck Henriksen for this free guided walk. Contact 608-698-0104.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

**Cherokee Marsh Warbler Walk
6-8 am, Cherokee Marsh North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave.**

Look for colorful warblers and other spring migrants. Registration is required: madisonaudubon.org/events.

FRIDAY, MAY 6

**Cherokee Marsh Frog Walk
7-8:30 pm, Cherokee Marsh North Unit, 6098 N. Sherman Ave.**

Learn about our native frog and toad species and how to identify their calls. Cherokeemarsh.org

SATURDAY, MAY 7

**Bird and Nature Adventure:
Yahara Riverway Hike
2:30 pm, Tenney Park**

Meet at the Tenney Park Beach parking lot, 1300 Sherman Ave. Join Master Naturalist Paul Noeldner for a free, family-friendly guided walk along the Yahara Riverway canal that connects Lakes Mendota and Monona. Look for spring birds and enjoy quiet natural areas in the middle of the busy Isthmus. See <http://tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures> for a map and fun facts about the Yahara, spring birds and more. Contact 608-698-0104.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

**Wild Warner Meeting
7 pm, WPCRC**

Join other nature lovers to help support nature preservation, restoration, recreation and education in the wild side of Warner Park. See the Wild Warner Facebook page for updates and more information. Contact 608-698-0104.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

**Cherokee Marsh Warbler Walk
6-8 am, Cherokee Marsh South Unit, corner of Wheeler Rd. and Ilene Ln.**

Look for colorful warblers and other spring migrants. Registration is required: madisonaudubon.org/events.

SUNDAY, MAY 15

**Bird and Nature Adventure: Nature Journaling
1:30 pm, Warner Park Rainbow Shelter**

Join Master Naturalist Steve Mansorge for a free guided walk to enjoy the natural areas at Warner Park. Take time to stop along the way to contemplate things. Bring pen and paper to write notes about what you see, how you feel, and the beauty around you. See the Wild Warner Facebook page for info about Warner Park and tinyurl.com/MadisonFUNAdventures for a map and fun facts about spring phenology and journaling. Contact 608-698-0104.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

**Friends of Cherokee Marsh board meeting
5:30-7 pm, WPCRC**

The public is welcome. To confirm time and location, contact janaxelson@gmail.com or 608-215-0426. Cherokeemarsh.org

THURSDAY, MAY 19

**Coffee with a Cop
9 am, WPCRC**

Please come and enjoy free coffee, free cookies, and great conversation with your officers on the Northside of Madison.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

**Friends of Hartmeyer Natural Area meeting
5 pm, WPCRC**

Help save and restore this historic wetland and upland habitat as a nature park. The public is welcome. See facebook.com/hartmeyernaturalarea for updates and more information. Contact 608-698-0104.

LL = Lakeview Library WPCRC = Warner Park Community Recreation Center



MGE is targeting net-zero carbon electricity by 2050. Join us in working toward a more sustainable future. Visit mge2050.com for energy-saving tips and more.

Net-Zero
CARBON ELECTRICITY BY 2050



Pickleball Courts opening soon at the Northside TownCenter!



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